



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 116th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 165

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2019

No. 1

Senate

The third day of January being the day prescribed by the Constitution of the United States for the annual meeting of the Congress, the Senate assembled in its Chamber at the Capitol for the commencement of the 1st session of the 116th Congress and at 12:04 p.m. was called to order by the Vice President (Mr. PENCE).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we honor Your Name. From You comes the help we need to face life's challenges and setbacks. Guide our lawmakers. Lead them through the turbulence to the destination of Your choosing. May they hold on to Your firm hand, finding in Your radiance the ability to transform bitterness, disappointment, and failure into redemptive opportunities.

Lord, make our Senators increasingly the kind of people whom You can use as instruments of Your purposes for humanity. Bless the incoming Senators of this 116th Congress with Your wisdom and might.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the certificates of election of 33 Senators elected for 6-year terms beginning on January 3, 2019, one certificate of election to fill an unexpired term and one certificate of appointment. All certificates, the Chair is advised, are in the form suggested by the Senate or contain all the essential requirements of the form sug-

gested by the Senate. If there be no objection, the reading of the certificates will be waived, and they will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD as follows:

STATE OF WISCONSIN CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR A SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 6th day of November 2018, Tammy Baldwin was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Wisconsin a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January 2019.

Witness: His excellency our governor Scott Walker, and our seal hereto affixed at Madison this 6th day of December 2018.

By the Governor:

SCOTT WALKER,
Governor.

DOUGLAS LA FOLLETTE,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

WYOMING

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 6th day of November 2018, John Barrasso was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Wyoming, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January 2019.

Witness: His Excellency our governor, Matthew H. Mead, and our seal hereto affixed at the Wyoming State Capitol, Cheyenne, Wyoming, this 14th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2018.

By the Governor:

MATTHEW H. MEAD,
Governor.

EDWARD A. BUCHANAN,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

THE STATE OF TENNESSEE

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 6th day of November, 2018, Marsha Blackburn was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Tennessee a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the

United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3d day of January, 2019.

Witness: His excellency our governor Bill Haslam, and our seal hereto affixed at Nashville this 6th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2018.

By the Governor:

BILL HASLAM,
Governor.

TRE HARGETT,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

THE STATE OF INDIANA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR A SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the sixth day of November, 2018, Mike Braun was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Indiana a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2019.

Witness: His excellency our governor Eric J. Holcomb, and our seal hereto affixed at Indianapolis, this twenty-ninth day of November, in the year of our Lord, 2018.

By the Governor:

ERIC HOLCOMB,
Governor.

CONNIE LAWSON,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

THE STATE OF OHIO

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR A SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 6th day of November 2018, Sherrod Brown was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Ohio a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2019.

Witness: His excellency our governor, and our seal hereto affixed at Columbus, Ohio, this 7th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2018.

By the Governor:

JOHN R. KASICH,
Governor.

JON HUSTED,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF WASHINGTON

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that at the General Election held in the state of Washington on the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

6th day of November, 2018, Maria Cantwell was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the state of Washington as United States Senator from the state of Washington to represent the state of Washington in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2019.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor Jay Inslee, and our seal hereto affixed at Olympia, Washington this 4th day of December, 2018.

By the Governor:

JAY INSLEE,
Governor.

KIM WYMAN,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF MARYLAND

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 6th day of November, 2018 Ben Cardin was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Maryland a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2019.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor Larry Hogan and our seal hereto affixed at the City of Annapolis, this 12th day of December, in the Year of Our Lord 2018.

By the Governor:

LARRY HOGAN,
Governor.

JOHN C. WOBENSMITH,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF DELAWARE

To all persons to whom these presents shall come, Greetings:

Whereas, an election was held in the State of Delaware, on Tuesday, the sixth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen, that being the Tuesday next after the first Monday in said month, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the State of Delaware, in that behalf, for the purpose of choosing by ballot a Senator for the people of said State in the United States Senate for the term of six years commencing January 3, 2019.

And Whereas, the official certificates or returns of said election, held in the several counties of the said State, in due manner made out, signed and executed, have been delivered to me according to the laws of the said State, by the Superior Court of said counties; and having examined said returns, and enumerated and ascertained the number of votes for each and every candidate or person voted for, for United States Senate, I have found Thomas R. Carper to be the person highest in vote, and therefore duly elected and chosen United States Senator of this State.

I, The Said John C. Carney, Governor aforesaid, in accordance with the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of this State in that behalf, do hereby, therefore, declare, make known and certify that the said Thomas R. Carper has received the highest vote at the election aforesaid and therefore is the legally elected United States Senator for the State of Delaware.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the said State, at Wilmington, the 29th day of November in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen and in the year of the Independence of the United States of America two hundred forty-three.

By the Governor:

JOHN C. CARNEY,
Governor.

JEFFREY W. BULLOCK,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the sixth day of November, 2018, Bob Casey, Jr. was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a United States Senator to represent Pennsylvania in the Senate of the United States for a term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, 2019.

Witness: His excellency our Governor, Tom Wolf, and our seal hereto affixed at Harris-

burg this seventeenth day of December, in the year of our Lord, 2018.

TOM WOLF,

Governor.

ROBERT TORRES,

Acting Secretary of the
Commonwealth.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 6th day of November 2018, Kevin Cramer was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of North Dakota a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January 2019.

In witness whereof, we have set our hands in the Capitol City of Bismarck this 16th day of November 2018 and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Dakota.

DOUG BURGUM,
Governor.

ALVIN A. JAEGER,
Secretary of State.

PENNY MILLER,
Clerk of the Supreme
Court, Member State
Canvassing Board.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF TEXAS

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 6th day of November, 2018, Ted Cruz was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Texas, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2019.

Witness: His excellency our governor Greg Abbott, and our seal hereto affixed at Austin, Texas this 3rd day of December, in the year of our Lord 2018.

By the Governor:

In testimony whereof, I have hereto signed my name and have officially caused the Seal of the State of Texas to be affixed at my office in the City of Austin, Texas, this the 3rd day of December, 2018.

GREG ABBOTT,
Governor.

ROLANDO B. PABLOS,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States of America:

This is to certify that on the 6th day of November, 2018, Dianne Feinstein was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of California as a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2019.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 14th day of December, 2018.

EDMUND G. BROWN, JR.,
Governor of Cali-
fornia.

ALEX PADILLA,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF NEBRASKA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 6th day of November 2018, Deb Fischer was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Nebraska, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2019.

Witness: His excellency our governor Pete Ricketts, and our seal hereto affixed at Lincoln, Nebraska this 3rd day of December, in the year of our Lord 2018.

By the governor:

PETE RICKETTS,
Governor.

JOHN A. GALE,

Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF NEW YORK

To the President of the Senate

This is to certify that on the sixth day of November, two thousand eighteen, Kirsten E. Gillibrand duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of New York a Senator from said State to represent the State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, two thousand nineteen.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, and our seal hereto affixed at Albany, New York, this nineteenth day of December in the year two thousand eighteen.

By the Governor:

ANDREW M. CUOMO,
Governor.

ROSSANA ROSADO,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF MISSOURI

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 6th day of November, 2018, Josh Hawley was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Missouri a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2019.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor Michael L. Parson, and our seal hereto affixed at the City of Jefferson this 11th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2018.

By the Governor:

MICHAEL L. PARSON,
Governor.

JAY ASHCROFT,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that Martin T. Heinrich was duly and regularly elected in accordance with the law to the office of the United States Senator at the General Election held in the State of New Mexico on the 6th day of November 2018 to represent said state in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January 2019.

In testimony whereof, We have hereunto set our hands and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of New Mexico, this 27th day of November 2018.

SUSANA MARTINEZ,
Governor.

JUDITH NAKAMURA,
Chief Justice of the
New Mexico Supreme
Court.

MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF HAWAII

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the sixth day of November, 2018, Mazie Hirono was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Hawaii a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning at noon on the third day of January, 2019.

Witness: His excellency our governor, David Y. Ige, and our seal hereto affixed at Honolulu this twenty-sixth day of November, in the year of our Lord 2018.

By the Governor:

DAVID Y. IGE,
Governor.

SCOTT T. NAGO,
Chief Election Officer.

[State Seal Affixed]

THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 6th day of November, 2018, Timothy M. Kaine was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the Commonwealth of Virginia a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2019.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor Ralph S. Northam, and our seal hereto affixed at Richmond, Virginia this 11th day of December, in the year of our Lord, 2018.

RALPH S. NORTHAM,
Governor of Virginia.

KELLY TOMASSON,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF MAINE

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the sixth day of November, in the year Two Thousand and Eighteen, Angus S. King, Jr. was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Maine, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, in the year Two Thousand and Nineteen.

Witness: His excellency our Governor, Paul R. LePage, and our seal hereto affixed at Augusta, Maine this fourth day of December, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Eighteen.

By the Governor:

PAUL R. LEPAGE,
Governor.

MATTHEW DUNLAP,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF MINNESOTA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the sixth day of November, 2018, Amy Klobuchar was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Minnesota a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3d day of January, 2019.

Witness: His excellency our governor Mark Dayton, and out seal hereto affixed at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 14th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2018.

By the Governor:

MARK DAYTON,
Governor.

STEVE SIMON,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the sixth day of November, 2018, Joseph Manchin, III was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of West Virginia a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years beginning on the third day of January, 2019.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor, Jim Justice, and our seal hereto affixed at Charleston this eleventh day of December, in the year of our Lord 2018.

By the Governor:

JIM JUSTICE,
Governor.

MAC WARNER,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF ARIZONA

CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Arizona, I, Douglas A. Ducey, the governor of said State, do hereby appoint Martha McSally a Senator from said State, effective at noon on January 3rd, 2019, to represent

said State in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein caused by the death of John Sidney McCain III, is filled by election as provided by law.

Witness: His excellency our governor Douglas A. Ducey, and our seal hereto affixed at Phoenix, Arizona this 2nd day of January in the year of our Lord 2019.

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY,
Governor.

MICHELLE REAGAN,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the sixth day of November, 2018, Robert Menendez, was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of New Jersey, a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, 2019.

GIVEN, under my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Jersey, this third day of December two thousand and eighteen.

By the Governor:

PHIL MURPHY,
Governor.

TAHESHA WAY,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the sixth day of November, two thousand and eighteen Christopher S. Murphy was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Connecticut a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning, on the third day of January two thousand and nineteen.

Witness: His Excellency our Governor: Dannel P. Malloy and our seal hereto affixed at Hartford, this twenty-eighth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand eighteen.

DANNEL P. MALLOY,
Governor.

DENISE W. MERRILL,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF UTAH

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the day of November 6, 2018, Mitt Romney was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Utah a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3d day of January, 2019.

Witness: His excellency our governor Gary R. Herbert, and our seal hereto affixed at Salt Lake City, Utah this 6th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2018.

By the Governor:

GARY R. HERBERT,
Governor.

SPENCER J. COX,
Lieutenant Governor.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF NEVADA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of United States:

This is to certify that at a general election held in the State of Nevada on Tuesday, the sixth day of November, two thousand eighteen Jacky Rosen was duly elected a Member of the United States Senate in and for the State of Nevada, for a term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, 2019.

Now, therefore, I Brian Sandoval, Governor of the State of Nevada, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws thereof, and do hereby Commission her, the said Jacky Rosen, as a Member of the United States Senate, and authorize her to discharge the duties of said office according to

law, and to hold and enjoy the same, together with all powers, privileges and emoluments thereunto appertaining.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Nevada to be affixed at the State Capitol at Carson City, Nevada on this 4th day of December, two thousand eighteen.

BRIAN SANDOVAL,
Governor of the State of Nevada.

BARBARA K. CEGAVSKE,
Secretary of the State of Nevada.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF VERMONT

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 6th day of November, 2018, Bernard Sanders was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Vermont to be a Senator from Vermont to represent Vermont in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2019.

Witness my name hereunto subscribed and the Great Seal of the State of Vermont hereunto affixed at Montpelier this 3rd day of December, 2018.

PHILIP B. SCOTT,
Governor.

JAMES C. CONDOS,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF FLORIDA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the day of November 6, 2018, Rick Scott was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Florida a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2019.

Witness: His excellency our governor, Rick Scott, and our seal hereto affixed at Tallahassee, the Capital, this 20th day of November, in the year of our Lord 2018.

By the Governor:

RICK SCOTT,
Governor.

KEN DETZNER,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF ARIZONA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the day of November 6, 2018, Kyrsten Sinema, was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Arizona a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2019.—

Witness: His excellency our Governor Douglas A. Ducey, and our seal hereto affixed at Phoenix, Arizona, this 4th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2018.

By the Governor:

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY,
Governor.

MICHELLE REAGAN,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF MICHIGAN

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 6th day of November, 2018, Debbie Stabenow was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Michigan a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January, 2019.

Given under my hand and the Great Seal of the state of Michigan this 28th day of November, in the year of the Lord, Two Thousand Eighteen.

By the Governor:

RICK SNYDER,
Governor.

RUTH A. JOHNSON,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF MONTANA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 6th day of November 2018, Jon Tester, was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Montana a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January 2019.

Witness: His excellency our governor Steve Bullock and our seal hereto affixed in the City of Helena, Montana, this 7th day of December in the year of our Lord 2018.

By the governor:

STEVE BULLOCK,
Governor.
COREY STAPLETON,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF MINNESOTA

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR UNEXPIRED TERM

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the sixth day of November, 2018, Tina Smith was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Minnesota a Senator for the unexpired term ending at noon on the 3d day of January, 2021, to fill the vacancy in the representation from said State in the Senate of the United States cause by the resignation of Al Franken.

Witness: His excellency our governor Mark Dayton, and our seal hereto affixed at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 14th day of December, in the year of our Lord 2018.

By the Governor:

MARK DAYTON,
Governor.
STEVE SIMON,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the sixth day of November, two thousand and eighteen, Elizabeth A. Warren was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a Senator from said Commonwealth to represent said Commonwealth in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the third day of January, two thousand and nineteen.

Witness: His Excellency the Governor, Charles D. Baker, and Our Great Seal hereto affixed at Boston, this twenty-eight day of November in the year of Our Lord two thousand and eighteen.

By His Excellency the Governor:

CHARLES D. BAKER,
Governor.
WILLIAM FRANCIS GALVIN,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 6th day of November 2018, Sheldon Whitehouse was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations a Senator from said State to represent said State in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January 2019.

Witness: Her Excellency our Governor Gina M. Raimondo, and our seal affixed on this 20th day of November 2018.

By the Governor:

GINA M. RAIMONDO,
Governor.
NELLIE M. GORBEA,

Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTION FOR SIX-YEAR TERM
To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that on the 6th day of November 2018, Roger F. Wicker was duly chosen by the qualified electors of the State of Mississippi a Senator from Mississippi to represent Mississippi in the Senate of the United States for the term of six years, beginning on the 3rd day of January Two Thousand Nineteen.

Given under my hand, and our seal affixed hereto, at the City of Jackson, this the 12th day of December in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Eighteen.

PHIL BRYANT,
Governor of the State of Mississippi.
C. DELBERT HOSEMAN,
JR.,
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senators to be sworn in will now present themselves at the desk in groups of four as their names are called in alphabetical order, the Chair will administer the oath of office.

The clerk will read the names of the first group.

The legislative clerk called the names of Ms. BALDWIN of Wisconsin, Mr. BARRASSO of Wyoming, Mrs. BLACKBURN of Tennessee, and Mr. BRAUN of Indiana.

The Senators, escorted by Mr. KOHL, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CORKER, and Mr. YOUNG, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations, Senators.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will read the names of the second group.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. CANTWELL of Washington, Mr. CARDIN of Maryland, and Mr. CARPER of Delaware.

The Senators, escorted by Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HOYER, and Mr. COONS, respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will now read the names of the third group.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. CASEY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CRAMER of North Dakota, Mr. CRUZ of Texas, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN of California.

The Senators, escorted by Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. HARRIS, respectively, advanced to the

desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will now read the name of the fourth group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mrs. FISCHER of Nebraska, Mrs. GILLIBRAND of New York, Mr. HAWLEY of Missouri, and Mr. HEINRICH of New Mexico.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. CORNYN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. FLAKE respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will now read the names of the fifth group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Ms. HIRONO of Hawaii, Mr. KAINE of Virginia, Mr. KING of Maine, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota.

These Senators, escorted by Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WARNER, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. SMITH respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will now read the names of the sixth group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. MANCHIN of West Virginia, Ms. MCSALLY of Arizona, Mr. MENENDEZ of New Jersey, and Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut.

These Senators, escorted by Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. ERNST, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will now read the names of the seventh group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. ROMNEY of Utah, Mrs. ROSEN of Nevada, Mr. SANDERS of Vermont, and Ms. SINEMA of Arizona.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. HATCH, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. FLAKE respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will now read the names of the eighth group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Ms. SMITH of Minnesota, Ms. STABENOW of Michigan, Mr. TESTER of Montana, and Ms. WARREN of Massachusetts.

These Senators, escorted by Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. MARKEY respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will now read the names of the final group of Senators.

The legislative clerk called the names of Mr. WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island and Mr. WICKER of Mississippi.

These Senators, escorted by Mr. REED and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH respectively, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oath prescribed by law was administered to them by the Vice President; and they severally subscribed to the oath in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

QUORUM CALL

The VICE PRESIDENT. The absence of a quorum has been suggested.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll, and the following Senators entered the Chamber and answered to their names:

Alexander	Durbin	Murphy
Baldwin	Ernst	Murray
Barrasso	Feinstein	Peters
Bennet	Fischer	Portman
Blackburn	Gardner	Reed
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Roberts
Blunt	Grassley	Romney
Booker	Harris	Rosen
Boozman	Hassan	Rounds
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Brown	Heinrich	Sanders
Cantwell	Hirono	Schumer
Capito	Hoeven	Shaheen
Cardin	Hyde-Smith	Shelby
Carper	Jones	Sinema
Casey	Kaine	Smith
Cassidy	King	Stabenow
Collins	Klobuchar	Tester
Coons	Lankford	Thune
Cornyn	Leahy	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Lee	Warner
Cotton	Manchin	Warren
Cramer	Markey	Whitehouse
Crapo	McConnell	Wicker
Cruz	McSally	Wyden
Duckworth	Menendez	Young

The VICE PRESIDENT. The quorum was present.

LIST OF SENATORS BY STATES

Alabama—DOUG JONES and RICHARD C. SHELBY

Alaska—LISA MURKOWSKI and DAN SULLIVAN

Arizona—MARTHA MCSALLY and KYRSTEN SINEMA

Arkansas—JOHN BOOZMAN and TOM COTTON

California—DIANNE FEINSTEIN and KAMALA D. HARRIS

Colorado—MICHAEL F. BENNET and CORY GARDNER

Connecticut—RICHARD BLUMENTHAL and CHRISTOPHER MURPHY

Delaware—THOMAS R. CARPER and CHRISTOPHER A. COONS

Florida—MARCO RUBIO

Georgia—JOHNNY ISAKSON and DAVID PERDUE

Hawaii—BRIAN SCHATZ and MAZIE HIRONO

Idaho—MIKE CRAPO and JAMES E. RISCH

Illinois—RICHARD J. DURBIN and TAMMY DUCKWORTH

Indiana—MIKE BRAUN and TODD YOUNG

Iowa—CHUCK GRASSLEY and JONI ERNST

Kansas—PAT ROBERTS and JERRY MORAN

Kentucky—MITCH MCCONNELL and RAND PAUL

Louisiana—BILL CASSIDY and JOHN KENNEDY

Maine—SUSAN M. COLLINS and ANGUS S. KING, JR.

Maryland—BENJAMIN L. CARDIN and CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

Massachusetts—ELIZABETH WARREN and EDWARD J. MARKEY

Michigan—GARY C. PETERS and DEBBIE STABENOW

Minnesota—AMY KOBACH and TINA SMITH

Mississippi—CINDY HYDE-SMITH and ROGER F. WICKER

Missouri—ROY BLUNT and JOSH HAWLEY

Montana—STEVE DAINES and JON TESTER

Nebraska—DEB FISCHER and BEN SASSE

Nevada—CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO and JACKY ROSEN

New Hampshire—JEANNE SHAHEEN and MARGARET WOOD HASSAN

New Jersey—ROBERT MENENDEZ and CORY A. BOOKER

New Mexico—TOM UDALL and MARTIN HEINRICH

New York—CHARLES E. SCHUMER and KIRSTEN E. GILLIBRAND

North Carolina—RICHARD BURR and THOM TILLIS

North Dakota—JOHN HOEVEN and KEVIN CRAMER

Ohio—SHERROD BROWN and ROB PORTMAN

Oklahoma—JAMES M. INHOFE and JAMES LANKFORD

Oregon—RON WYDEN and JEFF MERKLEY

Pennsylvania—ROBERT P. CASEY, JR. and PATRICK J. TOOMEY

Rhode Island—JACK REED and SHELTON WHITEHOUSE

South Carolina—LINDSEY GRAHAM and TIM SCOTT

South Dakota—JOHN THUNE and MIKE ROUNDS

Tennessee—LAMAR ALEXANDER and MARSHA BLACKBURN

Texas—JOHN CORNYN and TED CRUZ

Utah—MITT ROMNEY and MIKE LEE

Vermont—PATRICK J. LEAHY and BERNARD SANDERS

Virginia—MARK R. WARNER and TIM Kaine

Washington—PATTY MURRAY and MARIA CANTWELL

West Virginia—JOE MANCHIN III and SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO

Wisconsin—RON JOHNSON and TAMMY BALDWIN

Wyoming—MICHAEL B. ENZI and JOHN BARRASSO

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The VICE PRESIDENT. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The VICE PRESIDENT. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader is recognized.

INFORMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT A QUORUM OF EACH HOUSE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 1, submitted earlier today.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 1) informing the President of the United States that a quorum of each House is assembled.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 1) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 1

Resolved, That a committee consisting of two Senators be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each House is assembled and that the Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A QUORUM OF THE SENATE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 2, submitted earlier today.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 2) informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 2) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 2

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The majority leader.

ELECTING CHUCK GRASSLEY TO BE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 3, submitted earlier today.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 3) to elect CHUCK GRASSLEY, a Senator from the State of Iowa, to be President pro tempore of the Senate of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon table with no intervening action or debate.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 3) was agreed to as follows:

S. RES. 3

Resolved, That Charles E. Grassley, a Senator from the State of Iowa, be, and he is hereby, elected President of the Senate pro tempore.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The senior Senator from Iowa will present himself at the desk; I will administer the oath of office.

Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY advanced to the desk of the Vice President, and the oath prescribed by law was administered to him by the Vice President.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Congratulations.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President pro tempore is now invited to preside the Chair.

(Applause.)

NOTIFYING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 4, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 4) notifying the President of the United States of the election of a President pro tempore.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 4) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 4

Resolved, That the President of the United States be notified of the election of the Honorable Charles E. Grassley as President of the Senate pro tempore.

NOTIFYING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 5, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 5) notifying the House of Representatives of the election of a President pro tempore.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 5) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 5

Resolved, That the House of Representatives be notified of the election of the Honorable Charles E. Grassley as President of the Senate pro tempore.

FIXING THE HOUR OF DAILY MEETING OF THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 6, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 6) fixing the hour of the daily meeting of the Senate.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 6) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 6

Resolved, That the daily meeting of the Senate be 12 o'clock meridian unless otherwise ordered.

TO MAKE EFFECTIVE APPOINTMENT OF SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 7, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 7) to make effective appointment of Senate Legal Counsel.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 7) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 7

That the appointment of Patricia Mack Bryan of Virginia to be Senate Legal Counsel, made by the President pro tempore this day, is effective as of January 3, 2019, and the term of service of the appointee shall expire at the end of the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress.

TO MAKE EFFECTIVE APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 8, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 8) to make effective appointment of Deputy Senate Legal Counsel.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 8) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 8

That the appointment of Morgan J. Frankel of the District of Columbia to be Deputy Senate Legal Counsel, made by the President pro tempore this day, is effective as of January 3, 2019, and the term of service of the appointee shall expire at the end of the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENTS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send to the desk, en bloc, 11 unanimous consent requests, and I ask for their immediate consideration en bloc. I further ask that the requests be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and that they appear separately in the RECORD.

Before the Chair acts on my request, I would like to point out that these requests are routine and done at the beginning of each new Congress.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that for the duration of the 116th Congress, the Ethics Committee be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that for the duration of the 116th Congress, there be a limitation of 15 minutes each upon any rollcall vote, with the warning signal to be sounded at the midway point, beginning at the last 7½ minutes, and when rollcall votes are of 10-minute duration, the warning signal be sounded at the beginning of the last 7½ minutes.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that during the 116th Congress, it be in order for the Secretary of the Senate to receive reports at the desk when presented by a Senator at any time during the day of the session of the Senate.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the majority and minority leaders may daily have up to 10 minutes each on each calendar day following the prayer and disposition of reading of, or the approval of, the Journal.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXVIII, conference reports and statements accompanying them not be printed as Senate reports when such conference reports and statements have been printed as a House report unless specific request is made in the Senate in each instance to have such a report shall be printed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations be authorized during the 116th Congress to file reports during the adjournments or recesses of the Senate on appropriations bills, including joint resolutions, together with any accompanying notices of motions to suspend rule XVI, pursuant to rule V, for the purpose of offering certain amendments to such bills or joint resolutions, which proposed amendments shall be printed.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 116th Congress, the Secretary of the Senate be authorized to make technical and clerical corrections in the engrossments of all Senate-passed bills and joint resolutions, Senate amendments to House bills and resolutions, Senate amendments to House amendments to Senate bills and resolutions, and Senate amendments to House amendments to Senate amendments to House bills or resolutions.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 116th Congress, when the Senate is in recess or adjournment the Secretary of the Senate is authorized to receive messages from the President of the United States, and—with the exception of House bills, joint resolutions and concurrent resolutions—messages from the House of Representatives; and that they be appropriately referred; and that the President of the Senate, the President pro tempore, and the Acting President pro tempore be authorized to sip duly enrolled bills and joint resolutions.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 116th Congress, Senators be allowed to leave at the desk with the Journal clerk the names of two staff members who will be granted the privilege of the floor during the consideration of the specific matter noted, and that the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to rotate staff members as space allows.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 116th Congress, it be in order to refer treaties and nominations on the day when they are received from the President, even when the Senate has no executive session that day.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, for the duration of the 116th Congress, Senators may be allowed to bring to the desk bills, joint resolutions, concurrent resolutions and simple resolutions, for referral to appropriate committees.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection to agreeing to the unanimous consent requests en bloc?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

FIXING THE HOUR OF DAILY MEETING OF THE SENATE

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a resolution at the desk.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 9) fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for its immediate consideration, and to send the resolution over, under the rule I object to my own request.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The resolution will go over, under the rule.

S. RES. 9

Resolved, That the daily meeting of the Senate be 12:01 p.m. unless otherwise ordered.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as we begin the 116th Congress, I am glad to be welcoming back my friends and returning colleagues to what I hope will be a productive session. Before we get to work, I would like to note the arrival of eight new Members who were just sworn in.

The Senate welcomes MARSHA BLACKBURN of Tennessee, MIKE BRAUN of Indiana, KEVIN CRAMER of North Dakota, JOSH HAWLEY of Missouri, MARTHA MCSALLY of Arizona, MITT ROMNEY of Utah, JACKY ROSEN of Nevada, and KYRSTEN SINEMA of Arizona, and in the coming days, Rick Scott of Florida will join our ranks.

I would like to welcome each of our incoming colleagues—as well as their families—to the Senate. Today you are forming the newest links in a historic chain and continuing the rich traditions of this body in which we are so fortunate to serve.

On a related note, I am pleased our new colleagues and the entire Senate will continue learning from the example of one of the most loyal stewards of our traditions, Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, who has been elected today as our new President pro tempore.

So congratulations to the senior Senator from Iowa on this tremendous accomplishment.

THE NEW CONGRESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as we begin this new Congress together, one fact is abundantly clear—the American people need Democrats and Republicans to work together.

Today illustrates that very point. Last November, voters expanded our Republican majority in the Senate but ensured that 60 votes will only be attainable by working across the aisle, and incoming Speaker PELOSI will be leading a new Democratic majority over in the House.

This is the landscape in which we will be operating. Fortunately, the record of the 115th Congress illustrates just how much is possible when both sides make bipartisan collaboration a priority.

In the Senate, our good-faith efforts yielded a historic tally of legislative

accomplishments on behalf of the American people. We passed landmark legislation to help heal the wounds of the opioid epidemic. We delivered measures to help lower prescription drug prices and expand access to safe treatments. We reached a major agreement to rebuild America's military and designed VA reforms that will help our Nation better keep its solemn promises to the brave men and women who have served. We brought a bipartisan scalpel to financial regulations so fewer of Main Street's local lenders will get trapped in the maze of Wall Street's rule book. We reasserted a commitment to regular order appropriations. We laid the groundwork for rebuilding American infrastructure. We delivered certainty and predictability to farming communities across our country.

So we know the Senate, with this Republican majority, is fertile soil for big bipartisan accomplishments. The question is, Will the newly Democratic House join in this good momentum or bring it to a standstill? It is a clear choice, and it will be clear to the American people watching all this at home: Good governance or political performance art? The public interest or political spite? Policymaking or Presidential harassment?

The first test is already upon us. Just yesterday, I was glad to join House and Senate leaders of both parties in a meeting with President Trump at the White House to discuss border security and outstanding appropriations.

This meeting included a briefing on the urgent crisis at our southern border. The facts on the ground are truly striking.

As the Border Patrol Chief testified before the Judiciary Committee a few weeks ago, the Border Patrol apprehended more than 800—800—gang members just last year, a 50-percent increase over the previous year. Methamphetamine seizures are up 75 percent since fiscal year 2015.

Importantly, we also know that in each of our four CBP sectors where physical barriers have been improved or expanded, illegal traffic has dropped by at least—now listen to this—90 percent in these areas where there are physical barriers, illegal traffic has dropped by 90 percent.

These are the facts on which the entire conversation must turn. Yet, as yesterday marked the 12th day of this ongoing partial government shutdown, our Democratic colleagues seemed less concerned with these facts than with their unreasonable political standoff with President Trump.

So for the benefit of all involved, let me restate the terms of engagement; in other words, where we are. We need a bicameral, bipartisan compromise solution. We need an arrangement that can check these three boxes: pass the House, achieve the support of at least 60 Senators, and get a Presidential signature. This is not complicated. That is how you make a law.

The legislation that House Democrats reportedly plan to vote on later

today is, in my view, not a serious attempt to check all three of those boxes. In fact, it ignores the bipartisan conference negotiations and progress made on these spending bills over the last month. So I would call it political theater, not productive lawmaking.

I have made it clear on several occasions—and let me say it again—the Senate will not take up any proposal that does not have a real chance of passing this Chamber and getting a Presidential signature. So let's not waste the time. Let's not get off on the wrong foot with House Democrats using their platform to produce political statements rather than serious solutions. Let's pick up where we left off and dedicate this 116th Congress to the spirit of bipartisan collaboration to create more victories for the American people.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

WELCOMING MEMBERS OF THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first allow me to welcome all of the new Members who were just sworn in for the first time as U.S. Senators, as well as my friends who were reelected to this body. We are entrusted with an awesome responsibility to conduct the vital business of this country we all love. We come at it from many perspectives, backgrounds, and geographies, but the hope is that we can come together and get some good things done.

I hope, in this new year and throughout the new Congress, the Senate will prove worthy of the responsibility and faithfully discharge our duties to our States, our country, the Constitution, and, of course, the well-being of the American people.

Now, sadly, as I address you, this new Congress is under the shadow of a government shutdown. Only one person is to blame for this predicament—President Trump. Democrats made several offers to the President that would have kept the government open over the holiday break. We even agreed to Leader McConnell's proposal to pass a clean continuing resolution to avoid a shutdown, and it passed the Senate unanimously; every single Democrat and every single Republican was for it. All indications were that President Trump would sign it, but then, hounded by the far right, particularly the radio and TV

commentators, President Trump threw a temper tantrum at the eleventh hour, and demanded more than \$5 billion for an ineffective border wall, knowing full well that it lacked the votes in the Senate.

After publicly rooting for a government shutdown for months, President Trump finally got his wish. Now, nine Cabinet Departments and dozens of other Agencies are shut down and hundreds of thousands of Federal workers are doing their jobs without pay. Food safety inspectors are running out of resources. Federal courts are running out of money. National Parks are suffering. In a few short months, the IRS will not be able to issue tax refunds that are vital to so many families.

Yesterday, the President invited congressional leaders to the White House. Speaker-designate PELOSI and I sought to have a sensible discussion about how to reopen the government. We proposed two bills that separate the wall fight from the government shutdown. Let me repeat that. The two bills we proposed separate the wall fight from the government shutdown. You don't have to have one, even if you can't resolve the other.

We proposed two bills: first, a six-bill minibus to provide appropriations for every Cabinet Department except Homeland Security and, second, a 30-day continuing resolution for Homeland Security.

The six bills are not Democratic bills, as I heard some of the rightwing commentators say. The six bills are the same bills that Republicans, including Leader McConnell, supported in the Senate Appropriations Committee. The CR passed unanimously through the Senate last year. Four of the six bills came to the floor and passed the Senate 92 to 6, with the vast majority of Democrats and Republicans being for them.

These are not Democratic bills. They were crafted in a bipartisan way by a Republican-controlled Senate Appropriations Committee and a Republican-controlled Senate. If these bills pass, they would allow us to continue discussion on border security without leaving large portions of the government shut down.

We obviously disagree about the best way to secure the border. We believe the wall is wrong on many counts. The wall is ineffective—most experts agree with that—and the wall is expensive.

When the wall was promised by President Trump, he said it was a campaign pledge he must keep. That was not his campaign pledge. His campaign pledge was to build a wall and have Mexico pay for it, not American taxpayers. So it is not a campaign pledge.

The President has no plan to deal with eminent domain. There are hundreds of landowners on the southern border who will go to court and fight every attempt by the Federal Government to expropriate their land. That will take years.

By the way, the Trump administration has not even spent the border security funding allocated by Congress last year.

The wall is wrong. It is ineffective; it is expensive; Mexico will not pay for it; there is no plan to deal with eminent domain; and they haven't even spent the border security funding allocated last year.

One more point for so many Americans: We do not want the wall to be a symbol of America. We much prefer the Statue of Liberty be that symbol. The symbolism is bad for the country, for our economy, for our security, and for our ability to get along in the world.

Democrats certainly support strong, effective border security: fencing, drones, technology, roads, what the experts say will actually work—not a wall. We totally disagree on that. But even with that disagreement, I repeat, there is no reason to keep unrelated parts of the government shut down because of those disagreements.

If Leader MCCONNELL, tonight, would put the bill that is passing the House on the floor, it would pass. After all, it was crafted by Republicans, especially those on the Appropriations Committee. So they are not opposed to it.

Yesterday at our meeting, I asked the President on multiple occasions to give me one good reason he should keep large portions of the government shut down while we have a separate debate about the border. He couldn't name one. He kept coming back and talking about the border. I said: No, Mr. President, these six bills have nothing to do with the border. Why can't we pass them? Why must we hold millions of Americans who depend on the services of these Agencies that are closed—hundreds of thousands of workers who get paid by these Agencies—why must we hold them hostage? Why must a temper tantrum determine how we vote and what happens in this government? Everyone can shut down the government on anything—any leader, any President. It is not the way to do things.

The President couldn't name a single reason that made any sense about why he should keep the other Agencies closed—not Homeland Security, but the others, and that is the best indication of why there is a shutdown. President Trump is holding the government hostage over his wall, using the well-being of millions of Americans as hostage in a futile attempt to get what he wants: a concrete border wall.

Where do we go from here? Well, we have a new Congress and several new Senators were just sworn in. The House of Representatives, of course, will change control, and Democrats will see a healthy majority. The new House majority is poised tonight to pass the two bills we offered the President. Leader MCCONNELL ought to take it up here on the floor of the Senate.

Let me be clear about a few points. The six-bill minibus is completely silent on the issue of border security. It would solely fund the eight Cabinet De-

partments not named Homeland Security at levels agreed to by both parties and signed off on by the overwhelming majority of Republicans on both the Appropriations Committee and in the Senate. There is absolutely nothing in those six bills that my Republican friends oppose. Let me repeat: There is nothing in those six bills that Senate Republicans oppose. All but six voted for the four of them that came to the floor, and every single Republican on the Appropriations Committee, including Leader MCCONNELL, voted for them in the Appropriations Committee.

When Leader MCCONNELL calls this some Democratic proposal, he is absolutely wrong. Leader MCCONNELL voted for it; Leader MCCONNELL supported it on both the floor and in the Appropriations Committee. It is not a Democratic proposal. In fact, the House Democrats went out of their way to pass a proposal that Republicans supported, and Senators GRAHAM, MORAN, LANKFORD, and MURKOWSKI voted for those bills as chair of their Appropriations Committees. They put them together.

Even if there are disagreements about border security, why not pass the six noncontroversial bipartisan bills? That is the question I would ask every one of my Republican colleagues. That is the question the American people are asking every one of my Republican colleagues. Above all, they are asking that of President Trump. What is the rationale for keeping eight Cabinet Departments shuttered for an unrelated dispute over the wall? There is none.

We can continue to debate the best way to secure our border. We have disagreements on those, but let us reopen these Cabinet Departments and ensure hundreds of thousands of Federal workers receive their paychecks and, even more importantly, that these Departments get back to work for the American people.

As I mentioned, the House will also pass a 30-day continuing resolution for the Department of Homeland Security. Again, there is nothing in that bill that Senate Republicans don't support. The Senate passed it unanimously before Christmas break. The only thing that has changed between now and then is that we will have a House Speaker who will pass this bill, as well, and once the House passes these two bills, Leader MCCONNELL should put them on the floor where I believe they will receive strong bipartisan majorities. It is going to be very hard for a lot of Republicans to vote no on the same bills they supported just a few months ago.

The leader says that he is waiting for White House approval. Unfortunately, the White House is all over the map. We don't know where the White House stands on any of these things. Yesterday, President Trump publicly rejected an offer made to Democrats a week ago by his own Vice President. There is no telling where the President will come down on any given day. Surely, Leader

MCCONNELL knows—after passing a CR through this Chamber, thinking it had the President's support—that if we rely on the President alone, we can be shut down for a long time. At this point, we need to take the lead here in Congress in the hope that we can show President Trump the sweet light of reason.

We have given our Republican colleagues a way out of the shutdown based on Republican-approved proposals. All Leader MCCONNELL needs to do to reopen the government is to bring to the floor the legislation that he and nearly every other Republican Senator already support.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I want to talk about what is happening in Congress. We are in the 13th day of the Trump shutdown—13 days that 9 of 15 Federal Departments and dozens of Agencies have shut their doors; 13 days in which hundreds of thousands of Americans have been furloughed or are working without pay; 13 days that Americans have been denied government services on which they rely and for which they pay taxes.

The President is holding Federal Government funding hostage in an attempt to force American taxpayers to pay for an ineffective and expensive wall on the southern border that he promised over and over again Mexico would pay for. Everybody knows that is not true. Mexico will not pay for President Trump's wall. Unfortunately, the American people are paying the price of the Trump shutdown, and, frankly, he does not seem to care. Let me give some examples.

Since the shutdown began, our national parks—the treasure of this country—have been left largely unsupervised. The welcome centers are closed. Park Rangers have been furloughed. There are few emergency or law enforcement personnel left to police the parks or rescue injured guests. That affects visitor safety, it reduces public access, and it threatens national and cultural resources in national parks in every part of our country. We are already receiving reports of damage to sensitive lands and national treasures—campgrounds littered with trash, overflowing toilets, locked restrooms. Even where parks remain open, campgrounds and other sites are beginning to close because of the obvious health and safety reasons.

Aside from government, businesses and gateway communities surrounding

our parks—taxpaying businesses—are also paying the price of lost sales, rentals, and empty storefronts, as families cancel their plans to visit because the shutdown drags on and on and on.

Because of the Trump shutdown, the U.S. Forest Service has curtailed forest thinning and fire-prevention projects. Just think of that. Within months of when the Nation was reeling from and dealing with a record-setting fire season, we cannot do the things that might prevent these devastating fires—we cannot get in there and work on them.

Just a few days ago, the Farm Service Agency shut their doors. That is the Agency that supports farmers and rural communities across the country. We came together—Republicans and Democrats—and passed a 5-year farm bill. I was proud to be one of the conferees of that farm bill. I saw both parties work together. We passed it. It is a complex and important bill, but farmers and ranchers need information from that bill right now.

Every farmer and rancher will tell you they are planning for the growing season: What can they plant? What should they buy? What should they do? They don't know how the laws will affect their operations heading into the planting season. Why? Because no one is in the office or staffing the phones, answering these questions or signing up producers for new programs. There is nobody there. Farmers will also not be able to apply for much needed loans that they count on to get started in the year and pay back as a result of their labor during the season.

Many farmers, like those in my home State of Vermont, face financial hardship due to the dramatic drop in commodity prices brought on by President Trump's tariffs. They need these loans to help pay their bills, stay afloat through the winter and prepare for the spring planting. With banks not willing to lend to them and not knowing what is going to happen, many rely on the U.S. Department of Agriculture as their lender of last resort. But the doors are closed, and there is nobody home.

While the President loudly proclaimed he would provide assistance through the Market Facilitation Program to help farmers mitigate the financial losses caused by his tariffs, as of December 28, there is no one there to process any new applications for these payments. The bottom line? The President put the tariffs in, but now they are told to fend for themselves because the President is holding the Department of Agriculture and its safety nets hostage to secure funding for his border wall. The Department of Agriculture has nothing to do with President Trump's border wall. It could not fund it if they wanted to. Yet virtually every farmer of every kind in this country is going to be affected by it.

In addition to government services that have ground to a halt, an estimated 450,000 employees are working,

but they are working without pay. That includes 41,000 Federal law enforcement and correctional officers at the Department of Justice—ATF agents, FBI, U.S. marshals, and DEA agents. They are not getting paid, but their mortgages still come due. The tuition payments for their children's education comes due. If they have healthcare costs, that comes due. They are told: You show up for work. Maybe we will get around to paying you and maybe we will not.

Then, you have 380,000 Federal employees who also have children, families and bills who have been furloughed. They have no guarantee that they will receive back payment when they return to work. Let me give you an idea of who some of these people are. They are 96 percent of our employees at NASA. I suppose they can sit at home and watch China land their satellite on the back side of the Moon.

Who else does it include? It includes 80 percent of the National Park Service, 60 percent of the Department of Commerce, and 33 percent of the Forest Service. In addition, many Federal contractors have discontinued their services, which leaves thousands of employees without work and without a paycheck.

This doesn't affect the President, but many of our dedicated Federal employees work every day to serve our country, and they live paycheck to paycheck: custodial workers, cafeteria workers, telephone operators, contract specialists, customer service representatives. These are the people the taxpayers can call when they have a question, and now they get no answer. They are people who have mortgages to pay. They have families to take care of. This financial disruption comes on the heels of the holiday season, when so many families' budgets are tight, it is even harder to fathom. It is even harder to justify. In fact, I will say it cannot be justified.

Most of these Federal employees who are without a paycheck have absolutely nothing to do with border security. That is the worst part about it. They are not the ones involved with border security, but they are casualties of President Trump's single-minded obsession of walling off our southern border. The President has repeatedly said: This is all about border security.

Really? Really? Come on. Give me a break. His actions caused the very Department in charge of securing our borders to be cut off from all the funding. Eighty-eight percent of the Department of Homeland Security employees are working without pay. They have to think about how they are going to pay their mortgage, their bills. They are working without pay. That includes 54,000 Customs and Border Patrol agents who protect our southern border and our northern borders. Many of them are veterans.

As of January 1, roughly 42,000 hard-working, dedicated members of our Nation's Coast Guard will be protecting

our country without pay. TSA officers screened over 2 million passengers and their bags per day through the holidays, but they are not being paid. I talked to some when I flew back from Vermont. It is hurting. One has healthcare bills. Another has a mortgage. They don't know how they are going to pay it.

Last week, House Democrats put forward a commonsense path to end the Trump shutdown. They introduced a minibus comprised of six bipartisan appropriations bills and a continuing resolution for the Department of Homeland Security to keep it up and running through February 8.

The House is going to vote on both these bills this evening. I expect they will pass. After all, just a few weeks ago, the same bills passed this Republican-controlled Senate unanimously. We know the votes are there to pass.

I urge my friend, the majority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, and Senate Republicans to take up these bills expeditiously. The six-bill minibus is not controversial. Senator SHELBY is chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I am vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and we both voted for them, as have virtually all members of the Appropriations Committee. There is wide bipartisan support in this Chamber. In fact, four of the six bills passed the Senate 96 to 6. The other two reported out of the Appropriations Committee were nearly unanimous votes. Why? Because they are a product of bipartisan compromise. They provide billions of dollars in new resources to address critical needs of the American people and to protect the U.S. national security.

It is irresponsible for the President to hold these six bills hostage in order to compel taxpayers to pay for his wall, a wall he falsely promised Mexico would pay for. If he would stop holding them hostage, we could pass these bills and send them to the President for signature. That would get the vast majority of the Federal Government back open for the good of the American people. We ought to do that.

It also makes sense to pass a continuing resolution for the Department of Homeland Security through February 8. We should not shut down the very Agency responsible for securing our borders over a fight for what is the best way to secure our border.

I will tell you what is not the best way, to furlough everybody, stop paying them, close down the government. Does that make us secure? Of course, it does not. Everyone agrees—Republicans and Democrats alike—we need to keep our borders safe and secure. Let's have smart border security, border security that works—new technologies proven to work on the border and our ports of entry, new air and marine assets, and additional personnel where needed. We do not need a 30-foot medieval wall. I visited that border. I know from the professionals who are there

what they need. They need a lot of resources, the very last of which would be a wall.

Let's recall, before the holidays, the President said he would sign a continuing resolution through February 8. We had a path forward. We all relied on the President's word. After 24 hours of FOX News and rightwing pundits criticizing him, the President's ego was so bruised he reversed course and broke his word. Here we are, 13 days into a Trump shutdown.

It has to end. We have a clear, sensible, responsible path forward. I strongly urge the Senate Republicans to support and pass this bipartisan compromise. After all, almost every Republican and every Democrat has voted for these bills. Let's vote for them again and tell the President we will work on what is needed for border security. We all agree on the need for border security. Let's work on what is the best way forward, but let's not close down the Department of Agriculture. Let's not close down all these other Departments that American taxpayers rely on.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). The Senator from Texas is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, the first order of business for the 116th Congress is to finish the business of the 115th Congress, just concluded. As we all know, one of the most important responsibilities of Congress is to fund the vital services provided by our government and in so doing provide paychecks to the hard-working public servants who keep the cogs of government turning.

While, as the distinguished Senator from Vermont recognized, we were successful in a bipartisan way to pass 75 percent of those funding bills, we know the remaining 25 percent is being held hostage over the issue of border security. That equates to hundreds of thousands of Federal workers and their families who don't know how or if they can make their rent this month or buy groceries or keep the lights on. They simply don't know when that next paycheck will be deposited in their bank account or how long the standoff will last. That is unfair, and it is unacceptable collateral damage.

It is our collective responsibility to fund the remaining seven Departments and Agencies and to do so soon. Unfortunately, over the holidays, not much progress seems to have been made. Really, what it amounts to is a debate over semantics: Is it a fence? Is it a wall? Is it border security? What is it? The semantic debate has led us to a partial government shutdown, now 13 days in and without a clear end in sight. We know Washington, DC, where the blame game is a world-class sport, where everybody is on the battlefield pointing fingers of blame any way they can.

Later, the House Democrats will consider a wholly unserious proposal that funds the remaining portions of government without a significant investment in border security. I believe that is a nonstarter. They know it, and we know it. The President won't sign it, and so the majority leader has said it will not be considered here in the Senate.

My constituents, as well as the Presiding Officer's constituents in Maine and Americans living in Tennessee, are not interested in show votes; they want real border security—something our Democratic colleagues used to support and have voted for time and again. But the debate has somehow shifted from “How do we solve this problem?” to “Who is going to win?” No longer is it a search for solutions; it is about embarrassing your political opponent and scoring points.

Yesterday on CNN, Alexandra Pelosi, the daughter of incoming Speaker NANCY PELOSI, made a comment about her mother's leadership style. She said: “She'll cut your head off and you don't even know that you are bleeding.” Kind of shocking comments coming from a daughter. It is not something I necessarily would consider a compliment, but the left appears to believe that it is a commendable trait, and they are eager to hand her the Speaker's gavel.

It seems the desire to cultivate a reputation for ruthlessness—win at all costs—has replaced an appetite to actually get things done. Rather than working with those with whom we occasionally disagree, Members are resorting to guerilla warfare—almost literally the law of the jungle. This practice is not only unproductive, it prevents us from securing the border and getting those workers impacted by this partial shutdown back to work.

Of course we know what it is going to take. It is going to take a negotiated agreement between the parties—between the Houses of Congress and the President. It is a challenging task, but it is not impossible. In fact, we have done it often.

My friends, contrary to what you have seen in the news or may read on social media, bipartisanship is not an antiquated or quaint idea, and you don't have to look very far back to see how we have been able to make bipartisanship work for the benefit of the American people. The 115th Congress was marked by major bipartisan accomplishments.

Just 2 weeks ago, the President signed legislation to overhaul our criminal justice system. This bill was a result of a lot of hard work and tough negotiations between Democrats and Republicans on both ends of the Capitol, as well as the leadership at the White House. Bipartisan work has allowed us to pass bills to tackle the substance abuse epidemic in this country, which claimed more than 70,000 lives last year alone. It has allowed us to fight human trafficking together and

to reduce gun violence and other violent crime. Together, we have supported America's military and delivered reforms to veterans' benefits and provided a pay raise to our troops. We reauthorized the Federal Aviation Administration, modernizing airport security for the air-traveling public. We eliminated the gag clause to ensure drug price transparency. Those are just a few of the things we have done together in a bipartisan way.

Working with those you disagree with isn't something to be ashamed of—it is actually how we turn good ideas into good laws and in so doing, govern.

I am glad to see him on the floor because I was going to mention the great example from our friend from Tennessee, Senator ALEXANDER, who wrote an op-ed in the Washington Post today about the importance of finding common ground. He gave an object lesson of how working together on very potentially polarizing legislation can be accomplished in a way that produces a result from which the American people benefit. Of course, that was a lesson he said he learned from negotiating with President Obama while working on the Every Student Succeeds Act.

He wrote:

Why, as a Republican, did I agree to a Democratic president's request with which I did not concur? Because I have read the Constitution, and I understand that if the President doesn't sign legislation, it does not become law.

Well, regardless of which party controls the Senate or the House or occupies the White House, that remains a constant. It is the distilled essence of our constitutional system. Democrats in the House should take our colleague's wise words to heart and return to the negotiating table with the President.

I believe there are a lot more productive ways to spend our time in Congress than ruthlessly attempting to annihilate our political opponents—people we disagree with. We can, we have, and we should strive to do better. So it is time to wash off the war paint. We know how to solve problems when we want to, and as we begin a new Congress, I urge all of our colleagues, both Republican and Democratic, to stop trying to score political points and start being productive and in so doing, govern.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I appreciate the comments of the distinguished senior Senator from Texas. I am glad to know that at least one person read my article in the Washington Post this morning, and I appreciate his mentioning it.

I think we should be blunt about this. There is never an excuse for a shutdown of the federal government. There

is never an excuse for even a partial shutdown of the federal government. Government shutdowns should be as off limits in bargaining over the budget, for example, as chemical weapons are in warfare.

Shutting down the government is not a demonstration of skill or courage; it is a demonstration of incompetence, of a failure by negotiators. It is embarrassing. And the American people ought to hold us accountable for that because we are sent here to get a result. It takes no particular skill or courage to take a position on an issue. If all one wants to do is take a position, you don't have to go through all the trouble of being elected to the U.S. Senate; you could just stay home and get a soap box, or you could get a radio show or a TV show. There are plenty of ways to take a position in this country. The real skill or courage belongs to those who first take their principled positions and then work together to get a result. That is what we do here day in and day out.

The senior Senator from Texas gave some examples of that. One of my favorite examples is what happened this past fall. There we were—if you watch television—in the midst of the Kavanaugh nomination hearing, about which there were enormous differences of opinion—producing, I might add, a historic speech by the Senator from Maine toward the end of it.

One might have thought, well, all they are doing in Washington, DC, is just throwing mud at each other or at Judge Kavanaugh. Well, that was one side of the Capitol. I suggest you look at what happens here as a split-screen television. That was on one side of the Capitol in the fall, but look at what was happening on the other side.

Seventy-two U.S. Senators—about half of them Democrat, half of them Republican—were working together on a bill to address, as the senior Senator from Texas mentioned, the single biggest public health crisis in this country, the opioid problem. We passed that, and it became law. That was done in October on one side of the screen.

We also passed a bill—Senator HATCH was a leader in that, and I worked on it as well—a once-in-a-generation change in the copyright laws, which helps make sure songwriters are paid fairly. Maybe that is not important to you; it is to thousands of songwriters in Nashville and Memphis and maybe in Los Angeles and New York and around the country. That happened in October.

Also in the fall, the Senate passed Appropriations bills—75 percent of the money for funding the federal government, which included record funding for the fourth consecutive year for biomedical research, record funding for the fourth consecutive year for our National Laboratories, and record funding for the fourth consecutive year for supercomputing.

A lot of other things were done this fall. That is the split-screen television.

So we are not defined, really, by the fights we have or by the positions we

take; we are defined and admired or not admired by whether we have the courage and the skill to come to a result.

Let me tell my colleagues a story that I told in that piece that was printed in the Washington Post today. It comes from the summer of 2015 and might offer a suggestion for how to resolve this government shutdown. There is no excuse for having it, but we are stuck in one, and we need to get out of it.

In the summer of 2015, President Obama invited Senator PATTY MURRAY, the Democratic Senator from Washington State, and me down to the White House for a meeting with him in the Oval Office. I am chairman of the Senate's Education Committee, and Senator MURRAY is the ranking Democratic member. What the President wanted to talk about was our work in Congress on trying to fix the law called No Child Left Behind.

If you think resolving an impasse on border security is difficult, try dealing with K-12 education policy. Try setting Federal policy for 100,000 public schools in this country. It is like 100,000 spectators at a University of Tennessee football game, all of whom are sure they are expert coaches and know exactly what to call on the next play. They all had a little football when they were kids, and so they know what play to call. All of us have a little education, and so we know how to fix the schools. Add to that the opinion of Governors, the opinion of teachers unions, the issues of federalism, of civil rights, of overtesting, and common core. And we had a divided government in 2015—a Democratic President, Barack Obama, and a Republican-majority Congress. It was in that environment that we were trying to fix No Child Left Behind.

The President asked Senator MURRAY and me to come meet with him privately in the Oval Office. On that day, the President said to me and to Senator MURRAY that there were three things he wanted in the legislation before he could sign it. I told the President that if he would not oppose the bill as it made its way through the Congress, those three things would be in the final bill or I wouldn't bring it to him.

On December 10, 2015, President Obama signed that bill. It is called the Every Student Succeeds Act. He called it a Christmas miracle even though there were plenty of provisions in it he didn't agree with. The three things he mentioned were included—I promised him that—but there were plenty of other things he did not agree with. “You kept your word,” he told me. “You did too,” I said to the President.

That is how you get a result when you have divided government and strongly held opinions.

Why, as a Republican, did I agree to a Democratic President's requests with which I did not concur? Because I have read the U.S. Constitution. That is

why. And I understand that if the President does not sign a bill, it does not become a law. On the other hand, I knew that the entire law was historic in what it was doing. The Wall Street Journal said that it was the greatest devolution of power from Washington, DC, to the States in a quarter of a century. It repealed the common core mandate, dismantled the national school board, and restored local control of schools.

We worked on it for a long time. We listened to each other. We made a lot of changes. We came up with a result that 85 Members of the U.S. Senate eventually were able to vote for and that the National Governors Association and both of the major teachers unions could support. The result will be that Federal education policy on K-12 will be stable for years to come for the teachers in those 100,000 public schools and the school superintendents and the parents. Nobody even suggested in all of those negotiations shutting down the government to get his or her way. We all knew we were elected to get a result if we could.

Let me tell you another short story. The next year, we were working on something called 21st Century Cures. Same President—Obama. Same Congress—Republican. Very complicated issues. How do you get biomedical research funded and through the Food and Drug Administration in a way that people approve of and would agree to? That is much more complicated than you would expect. I worked with President Obama, who wanted precision medicine. That was in there. Vice President Biden wanted a cancer moonshot. His son had died from cancer the previous year. That was in there. Senator McCONNELL, the majority leader, said he wanted something on regenerative medicine. That was in there. Speaker RYAN said he wouldn't approve it unless it had funding in a particular way, so we did it that way. Still we were having a hard time with it. I remember calling Vice President Biden at one point late in the year of 2016 and saying: Joe, I am standing here, and I have this all tied up with a ribbon around it. It had all of what I just described in there—precision medicine, cancer moonshot, funding for biomedical research, and regenerative medicine. I said: I feel like the butler standing outside the door of the Oval Office with an order on a silver platter, and no one will open the door. The Vice President said: If you want to feel like a butler, try being the Vice President.

Well, he went to work, and that bill was signed in December of 2016. Senator McCONNELL said that it was the most important legislation of the Congress. That wasn't because I took a position, and President Obama took a position, and the Vice President took a position. It was because we worked together, understanding that we had to agree to get a result.

So what is the lesson for today? First, Democrats should recognize, as I

did with President Obama in 2015 on fixing No Child Left Behind and in 2016 on 21st Century Cures and on other issues, that when a President elected by the people of the United States—whatever you may think of him—has a legitimate objective, you should bend over backward to try to meet that objective if you want a result.

As for the President, in this case President Trump, I would suggest that he should be as specific and reliable as President Obama was in 2015 when he told me he needed three things in order to sign a bill. When Congress passed a bill with those three things in it, even though it included some other things the President didn't like, he signed the law.

Since President Trump has made it clear that he will not sign any legislation to reopen the Federal Government without some increase in funding for border security, here are three options for where we could go from here to get out of this hole we have dug for ourselves.

No. 1, go small. Give the President the \$1.6 billion he asked for in this year's budget request, which the bipartisan Senate Appropriations Committee, which the Senator from Maine and I serve, approved. Throw in another \$1 billion to improve border security at ports of entry, which everyone agrees we need.

Even better, go bigger. Pass the bill that 54 Senators—I believe we are talking about the Collins-King bill—voted on last February, which combined a solution for children brought to the United States illegally, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or DACA. The President said he was for that. Then add \$25 billion in appropriated funding for border security over 10 years. That is not \$5 billion or \$1.6 billion or \$3 billion; that is \$25 billion appropriated for border security, which 46 Democrats voted for last February. The bill failed only because of last-minute White House opposition.

Even better, go really big. Begin this new Congress by creating a legal immigration system that secures our borders and defines the status of those already here. In 2013, 68 U.S. Senators, including all 54 Democrats, voted for such a bill, but the House refused to take it up. That bill, which all 54 Democrats voted for, included over \$40 billion and many other provisions to secure our borders.

So there are three ways to turn this lemon into lemonade, so to speak—three ways to dig out of this hole we have dug for ourselves. Instead of saying that once we dig ourselves a hole, we should keep digging forever, climb out of it in a graceful way by solving a big problem.

Someone asked me in the hall recently: Well, why would President Trump agree to such a thing?

Why would he not agree to such a thing? I have said to the President on more than one occasion that when touring the White House, you can look

at the portraits of the Presidents. You see President Nixon, and what do you think? Nixon and China. You see President Reagan, and what do you think? Reagan and the Soviet Union. But Nixon was not always for a relationship with Communist China; he was opposed to it. Reagan was the biggest critic of the Soviet Union in our country. Yet the two of them took those credentials, and they tackled a big problem, and they made a historic contribution to this country.

I believe President Trump could and should do the same thing. We could go small or we could go a little bigger, and pass the Collins-King bill—or something close to it—that we voted for. I would like to see the President say: OK, we have a new Congress; we have divided government. I am the President who can actually make this happen. I believe the American people would trust me if I said that we were creating a comprehensive legal immigration system.

Get us unstuck from this partial government shutdown, and go real big on immigration. That could be President Trump's Nixon-to-China, Reagan-to-the-Berlin-Wall moment in history.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PORTMAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). Without objection, it is so ordered.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, today is a little like opening day here in the U.S. Senate. We have seen some of our colleagues—incumbents who were already elected—walk down this aisle, to be sworn in, after winning 6-year terms. We have also seen some new Members come in from all around the country who are from both parties. Just like every opening day, there is a certain sense of optimism in the air. I just went to a number of receptions for Democrats and Republicans alike, and people are talking about the need for us to work together.

We are also facing a new reality, and that is we have divided government now. Before, we had a Republican House and Senate and a Republican President. Now we have a Democratic-led House to go along with the Republican Senate and a Republican White House. We haven't had a divided government for a little while; yet our jobs don't change at all as our job is to figure out how to work together to get things done. Frankly, here in the U.S. Senate, we need 60 votes for almost anything, which requires a supermajority, which has always been the case. Really, there has been only one

way to accomplish things around here on behalf of the people we represent, which has been to figure out how to find that common ground. It is time to get back to doing that on some of these big issues. I would suggest to you that on issues like, maybe, healthcare and immigration, we have had a gridlock situation, where we just can't seem to figure out even how to get started.

I will say that in 2018, the year that just passed, we did make progress in some areas, and it is worth reflecting on that and talking about how that happened, because that would be the model for the future.

We made progress on combating the opioid epidemic that has gripped this country, and it is the worst public health crisis we have in this country now. In October, President Trump signed opioid legislation into law that contains a number of different ways to push back against this issue. In my home State of Ohio, it is the No. 1 cause of death now. Nationally, it is the No. 1 cause of death for those under age 50. We had over 70,000 people die in this country last year alone from opioid overdoses. So the President signed legislation into law that will help.

One piece of legislation is called the STOP Act. It is something that we worked on for 3 years. In fact, it came out of some work that we did on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. I and the Presiding Officer here today are on the committee, and we are able to work together—Republicans and Democrats alike—and do deep investigations into issues that then result in good legislation. In this case, we found out that more people are dying of fentanyl overdoses—the most deadly of all of the drugs now—of synthetic opioids than of any other drug.

We found out that it comes in through the U.S. mail system, primarily, and from China. We are really doing virtually nothing to provide the screening to try to keep some of this poison out of our communities. So that is now in place. Just a couple of weeks ago, I also met with the Postmaster General and with the head of Customs and Border Protection—the two individuals who are the most responsible for its implementation—to talk about how we can more quickly implement that legislation to save lives.

The bill also includes some other legislation that we worked on for years. One is to remove an arbitrary cap on the ability of people to get treatment. Some treatment centers were capped at 16 beds just because they took Medicaid funding. That made no sense. There are some good treatment centers out there that were turning people away. These people are addicted. If they don't get into treatment, they are going to continue to have their addictions and continue to cause crimes and continue to break up families and cause all kinds of problems for our criminal justice system. So that is a

positive part of what has happened here.

We also passed legislation in that package to help care for pregnant and postpartum women who are addicted and for their children and for babies who are born with this neonatal abstinence syndrome—dependent on drugs, essentially—and to help get them through life.

Last year, we passed important legislation that is already having an enormous impact to push back on another topic that we studied in the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I talked about earlier. That is legislation that deals with the trafficking of women and children. So much of that has moved online. Our research indicates that most of it was happening, actually, on one website, called backpage. We wrote legislation that enabled the victims to go after some of these websites if they had been exploited but also to allow prosecutors, including the prosecutors in your States and your cities and your counties, to go after some of these groups online that were knowingly trafficking women and children.

As a result of that, we have made huge progress. It took 3 years of investigation and legislating to get there, but that legislation now, in its having become law, according to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, has resulted in substantial decreases in the online sex trafficking of women and children. Lives have been saved. Those who were not able to pursue God's purpose in life are now able to because no longer are they being trafficked.

In addition, the permanent subcommittee's report helped the Department of Justice indict this worst actor in the online trafficking arena, backpage, as well as its executives. We were able to shut down the website altogether because of that. So we have made progress.

The year 2018 was also the first year of the new Tax Code that has made American workers and American companies far more competitive. It is responsible, more than any other thing, for the fact that we not only have more jobs in this country and historically low unemployment numbers now but also higher wages. Over the past few months, we have seen where we have had, for the first time, really, in a decade and a half, rising wages relative to inflation so that people who are working hard and playing by the rules are feeling that they are getting ahead again. A couple of months ago, there was a 3-percent increase from the previous year. That is something you want to see happen continually, and this tax reform, because it encourages investment in jobs and expansion, is having that impact.

The year 2018 was also the year we provided more funding for our brave men and women in uniform who are out there protecting us every day. Our military was not able to do its job be-

cause we didn't have adequate resources. We were able to do that in 2018 on a bipartisan basis.

So there have been some examples of bipartisanship that have made a big difference. Again, we should look at those and determine what happened there. Why were we stuck on one issue; yet, on others, we were able to make progress? I would suggest to you that there are four or five other issues that are at the point at which they have enough bipartisan support that we should be able to get them done this year.

I know people say: Well, we are getting into the 2020 election. Folks, it is only 2019. We are only a couple of days into it. Let's not talk about the 2020 election. Let's not focus on what happens on the talk shows and what happens on the op-ed pages and what happens in terms of the red meat speeches being thrown out from both sides. Instead, let's focus on what we can do this year, in 2019—there is no election this year—to actually make progress on some of these issues. Some of them are ones that affect all of our constituents in very fundamental ways. Others, perhaps, are not as significant.

Right now, we have an opportunity to break this gridlock and to stop the partial government shutdown and to also make some reforms in the immigration system as we do it.

The appropriations process for funding our Federal Government is stuck right now. There are 7 bills out of 12 that have not been passed. Of those seven, six have been agreed to by this body and the other body. Republicans and Democrats alike have voted for them, so we should get them done.

As we try to figure out a way forward, we should also be sure that we do two things: Stop the partial government shutdown—which makes no sense, particularly for taxpayers, which I will explain in a second—and strengthen our border.

Of course we should strengthen the border. There are a lot of bad things happening on the border. One, of course, is people coming across illegally. That is something none of us should want to see. We want to see a legal process. I think it is true that pretty much everybody in this Chamber understands we have to have a secure border, and there is not a secure border now. Some of it requires new fencing. Some of it requires other kinds of barriers. Some of it requires more technology and more people to respond when somebody breaches a fence or a wall. We all know that. We know there has to be more funding provided there. We should be able to do that.

At the same time, we should also realize that with regard to government shutdowns, as I said earlier, they really don't accomplish much because we always go back and repay the workers who have not been working on behalf of all of us. In these shutdowns, taxpayers always end up having to pay more, not less.

With regard to the shutdown right now, I don't think it is political leverage in particular because I think that some of those who are more partisan on the other side of the aisle are happy to have it continue, thinking it is good for them politically. Let's take the politics out of it. Let's stop shutdowns altogether.

There is legislation that has been introduced called End Government Shutdowns. Actually, when the Presiding Officer was in the House of Representatives, he was one of the leaders on that and still supports this idea. The notion is, if you don't finish an appropriations bill or if a continuing resolution expires—which is short-term, temporary funding instead of an appropriations bill—instead of having a shutdown, what you do is continue spending from the previous year. Then slowly, over time—1 percent after 120 days, another 1 percent after 90 days, and so on—you reduce that funding to give the Appropriations Committee around here and our leadership some incentive to come to the table and resolve the issues.

I just don't think shutdowns work. I have never quite understood it. Again, from a taxpayer's perspective, I don't think it makes much sense.

We are going to reintroduce the End Government Shutdowns bill again next week. It has been bipartisan in the past. I hope it will be bipartisan next week when we reintroduce it. Let's get that done. At the same time, let's figure out ways to have more security at our borders. Everybody agrees with that. I hope we can find a way to get to some common ground.

When we got into this issue last year, along with Senators THUNE and MORAN, I introduced legislation that would provide \$25 billion over a 5-year period to support this plan for a more secure border, including the plan from the Trump administration, while at the same time providing legal certainty to those young people who came to the United States illegally as children through no fault of their own. Some have called these children, who are now young people, part of the DACA Program. You have heard that word, D-A-C-A, DACA. These are people who came here as kids without going through the proper channels. They shouldn't be punished for that, so let's codify the administrative action that has been taken, and let's combine that with the funding. To me, that seems to be one where Republicans and Democrats could each find some opportunity for a victory. The win-win would then allow us to reopen the government and to move ahead with broader immigration reform, having had a little bit of success on at least one small part of the immigration issues we face. I think this is an example where, if both sides can give a little, we won't have a shutdown anymore, and we can move ahead on some other legislation.

I want to talk about some of those other priorities that we could easily

address this year because they are bipartisan. In some cases, they had already been worked on for years, and in other cases, for months. Frankly, just before we broke for the holidays, we came close to passing some of those.

One is for us to reform the tax collection agency, the IRS. Everybody should want to do this because, once again, the IRS is not serving taxpayers as they should. I say "once again" because about 20 years ago, Congress took on this task and formed a commission. Actually, I was co-chair of it with Senator Bob Kerrey. We passed legislation to improve the customer service of the IRS but also to give them more money for technology so they could do a better job with regard to enforcing the tax laws.

At that time, the IRS was in really tough shape. They weren't answering the phone. When they did, they weren't providing right information. The Agency suffered from wasteful spending, from low workforce morale, and from a lack of leadership and strategic direction. Guess what. That is happening again—all of those things.

We now have a new Commissioner who has just been confirmed. I am very hopeful he will make a difference there, but he needs our help legislatively—give him some tools to use. This new Commissioner, along with his new team, is eager to have those reforms. They think it is a prime opportunity to update what happens at the IRS and to be sure it is serving taxpayers better.

My hope is that calls will begin to be answered again and that we will get correct answers when we call to find an answer to a tax law question. We have now simplified the tax law in certain ways. We have also made it more complicated in other ways with this new tax reform legislation, so there are a lot of questions out there. Our legislation would be very helpful.

By the way, 20 years ago, we decided to include an independent appeal of an IRS decision. It is very important. To me, it is sort of a fundamental right. If the IRS is saying you are wrong about something, you should have the ability to appeal it and to have an independent forum.

Over the last 10 years or so, the IRS has kind of moved away from that. The appeals have declined because the IRS has chosen to settle a lot of cases in tax court, costing taxpayers a lot more money. Our legislation, which has been bipartisan, will help to create a new, independent appeals process. The Commissioner supports that. It is a way to ensure we have, frankly, more faith and confidence in the IRS, having that independent appeal.

We also give more structure to what is called the IRS Oversight Board. This was established 20 years ago. It worked for a while. It hasn't worked for the past 10 years. It is basically not in existence anymore. So we said: Let's establish this very simply so that it focuses on long-term, strategic goals for

the Agency, so it doesn't again fall back into the situation it is in now, with bad technology, bad customer service, and so on, and let's set up this oversight board in the right way.

Senator BEN CARDIN and I have introduced legislation called the Protecting Taxpayers Act. We almost got it done at the end of the year last year, just a few weeks ago. My hope is that we can get this legislation up and get it passed very, very quickly. We have already had hearings on it in the Senate Finance Subcommittee on Taxation and IRS Oversight, which I chair. My hope is that we can get that to a final vote very soon.

Another opportunity we have is to expand retirement savings. That is something which is very important to a lot of my constituents who are finding themselves in a situation where they thought they had saved enough, but they hadn't. People are living longer, healthier lives, and unfortunately the amount they have saved in their IRA or their 401(k) or what they have in their pension plan is not enough for them to have a secure retirement.

We have done this in the past. Again, we have worked together in a bipartisan way over the years to try to increase what people can save for their own retirement. In fact, Senator CARDIN, a Democrat from Maryland, and I have worked together in a bipartisan way going back a couple of decades. We had three different bills that expanded how much you could put away in a 401(k) or an IRA and have catchup contributions if you are over 50 and changing the rules to make it easier for small businesses to provide plans. Unfortunately, it is time to do that again so that people can set more aside for their golden years and have more peace of mind in retirement.

The numbers are pretty interesting. After our three pieces of legislation back in 1997, 2001, and 2006, we did see more savings. In fact, nationwide, growth of 401(k)s and other defined contribution plan savings, IRA savings, expanded pretty dramatically. There has been a 179-percent increase in 401(k)s in the last 17, 18 years and a 254-percent increase in IRAs. So we have shown that by passing legislation that provides more opportunity for people to save for their own retirement, more money is being put in.

However, having had those successes in moving retirement savings from about \$11 trillion in 2001 to \$28 trillion today, there is still a lot more to be done. My generation, the baby boom generation, just isn't saving enough for their retirement, and the same is true with the succeeding generation. Young people aren't putting enough aside, and we need to give them that incentive to do more because, frankly, that is a much more effective way for us to improve their chances of having a secure retirement, not depending solely on Social Security, and also to help our economy, because more savings is a

good thing for our private sector economy.

Even today, only just over half of the employees who work in private companies have a company plan. I think they should all have one. We should make it so easy that every company says: You know what, you come work for me, and I am going to provide you with a 401(k).

Maybe it is a simple plan, which is something we want to work on to try to create a new, very simple plan for small businesses because a lot of small businesses don't have the professionals, the H.R. people—the human resources people—to do it. That is part of what we have in our legislation. We need to do more to help part-time workers in particular. We need to do more to ensure that the smallest businesses have an opportunity to have savings plans.

Before the end of last year, just a couple of weeks ago, we introduced this legislation. It is called Portman-Cardin 2.0—the Retirement Security & Savings Act. It has more than 50 provisions. It is a culmination of many years of work with various stakeholders to come up with stuff that makes sense.

Among other things, it establishes new automatic enrollment safe harbors. It does raise the catchup contribution limits. It allows individuals to make additional catchup contributions after age 60. It would also expand the saver's credit for low-income families and make that refundable. To ensure that Americans don't outlive their savings, the bill exempts any savers with less than \$100,000 in aggregate savings from the currently required minimum distributions from their 401(k) or IRA. Right now, at age 70½, you have to start taking it out. For many people who are working into their seventies, this makes no sense at all. You have worked your whole life. You are still working into your seventies, as my dad was, and you are told: You have to start taking money from your retirement account, or we are going to penalize you. Our legislation says that if you have less than \$100,000 in savings, you shouldn't be subject to the minimum requirements at all. For others, we raised it from 70½ up to 75 years old over time to ensure that those who are in their seventies don't start depleting their retirement accounts when they may well need them, as they are, again, living longer and longer lives.

Let's continue our work to focus on helping people save for their own retirement. That is something we can do on a bipartisan basis.

We also have a little issue that is growing dramatically with regard to defined retirement plans, defined benefit plans—not defined contribution plans, like the 401(k)—and specifically what are called multiemployer plans. You may have heard about this, but if you haven't, you probably will if we don't do something because it looks like, by the year 2025, the Federal Insurance program called the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation will go

insolvent because of these plans not being properly funded.

Some of these plans are very big. There are about 60,000 people in the State of Ohio who are in one of these plans, including the Central States plan. If it goes belly-up, it will result in the PBGC—the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation—going belly-up. That insolvency would then create problems for all plans, including single-employer plans, not just these multiemployer plans we are talking about.

We need a bipartisan solution for that. We came close to it last year. We had a joint select committee formed to look at it. Again, that should be bipartisan—really, nonpartisan. If we don't solve this problem, it is going to have a big impact on our economy because not only does the Federal guaranty program go bankrupt, but a lot of businesses that rely on that are going to go bankrupt as well.

Finally, to continue our progress in combating the opioid epidemic, which we talked about earlier, we need to take the next step. There is new legislation called the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act 2.0, referring to the same legislation, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, CARA, which was passed here in this body 2½ years ago. That legislation is to do more in terms of treatment, recovery, and specifically prevention.

It also deals with this issue that we don't have effective drug-monitoring programs back in our States. Often, if someone gets a prescription for opioids, they wouldn't know whether that person already had that prescription. They also don't know if somebody has crossed the State line. In my State of Ohio, people might cross over to Michigan or Indiana or Kentucky or West Virginia, as they do—all States that have opioid problems, as well—and get a prescription filled there, and we in Ohio don't know it is a doubling up of prescriptions when they go to a pharmacy in Ohio. We need to work better to ensure that we have an interstate system. That is in this legislation.

We also have a limitation on prescriptions for acute pain. This is based on the Centers for Disease Control—the CDC—guidelines. They tell you that after 3 days of taking opioids for acute pain, it is far more likely that you are going to become addicted to pain medication. Obviously, this is a huge problem that we want to stop. So much of this opioid addiction—even the fentanyl addiction we have now, the synthetic opioids coming in—started with prescription drugs. It often started with legally prescribed prescription drugs.

Again, this says that for those who are prescribed drugs after a surgery, let's say for acute pain—not chronic pain, not cancer, but acute pain—there should be a 3-day limit. This is based on CDC research that has been done.

It is also based on the research being done by the FDA about how pain medication works. They say opioid medica-

tion may be helpful for somebody that has a serious pain issue after an operation, say, acute pain. But after the first couple of days, it is much more likely to be handled through something less dangerous, like ibuprofen. So there is not a need to have a continual use of opioids. Getting a 3-day national limit in place alone would have a huge impact on overdoses going forward, because it starts with an addiction and leads to the overdoses. For over 70,000 Americans last year, this led to not just an overdose but to overdose deaths—the No. 1 cause of death among people under 50 in our country today. It also requires hospitals and doctors to not just use these prescription drug monitoring programs but to share that data to prevent people from cheating the system and getting prescription drugs they shouldn't be getting.

Around the holidays, the New York Times did an interesting three-part study on the issue of addiction. I found it very helpful and commend it to you. It is about the science of addiction and some simple information about how these drugs essentially hijack your brain. This is a 2-page foldout that was in the New York Times just before Christmas. It goes through the various stages—from the gateway to opioids we talked about earlier, often from prescription drugs, tolerance and withdrawal symptoms, addiction, treatment, relapse, and recovery. If you haven't seen it, you can find it online. I would recommend it. It is in very simple language—talking to addicts, talking to experts, and giving people a simple sense of what happens here and what we can do to address it.

What we can do is much better on the prevention side—again, more information out there on understanding how dangerous these drugs are, but, second, getting people who are already addicted into treatment. This is in everyone's interest, including our law enforcement officials, who are tired of arresting the same people again and again for the same crimes, usually property crimes associated with paying for their habit—the No. 1 cause of crime in my State of Ohio. But it is also incredibly important for our families who are being broken apart and for so many of our healthcare systems, emergency rooms, and neonatal units in hospitals which are overwhelmed with these babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome. There is a huge cost and impact of that on individuals, on families, and on taxpayers.

It is something that is affecting employers in big ways now. When I look at the numbers in terms of what is happening in our economy, the biggest issue in terms of workforce is people who are not in the workforce at all anymore. That is at historically high levels. They aren't even applying for jobs. Among men, it is probably at historic levels. On men and women combined, you would have to go back to the late 1970s to see such low levels of participation in the workforce, when

we had double-digit unemployment, double-digit interest rates, and double-digit inflation. We don't want that again. When you look at why these people aren't working, it is dramatic how many of these people are addicted, and opioids is driving these numbers at a time when there should be many more people engaging in the workforce. The jobs are there. The jobs are open and not being filled. Often, people can't pass the drug test if they are looking, because of their opioid addiction. So it is affecting us in every way, including our economy and workforce.

To address these issues, this CARA 2.0 legislation will help, as will the legislation we passed last year with regard to the synthetic opioids and with regard to providing more treatment for people. If we keep up these efforts and continue to pass legislation that addresses the specific problems out there, I think this year, 2019, we will see the tide turning. We will see fewer addictions. We will see fewer deaths from overdoses. We will see more families not broken apart but coming back together. We will see our communities begin to heal because we are beginning to make progress. It is not showing up in all the numbers yet, but I see it back home with regard to individual regions and cities and with regard to communities doing an awesome job, with volunteers coming together and using some of the tools we have been giving them to have a more effective prevention campaign and also to get people into treatment. Where that is working, they are making a huge difference. So I am hopeful that in 2019, if we can keep this up, on a bipartisan basis, we will be able to see this progress be manifested in our communities.

There is plenty more to be done this year. I joined a bipartisan group of colleagues on the Senate floor just before the holidays, calling on the Senate to pass the Restore Our Parks Act, which is to deal with the \$12 billion maintenance backlog at our national parks. Things are falling apart—roads, bridges, water systems—and it is a shame because it is really a debt that is owed. We aren't keeping up because our annual budget doesn't provide money for these so-called capital expenses. Yet, if we don't deal with them, it becomes far more expensive. If the roof isn't fixed because it is too expensive, what happens? You have the entire building—as is happening at one of our great parks in Ohio—which has to be rebuilt at a huge cost to the taxpayer. So there is an opportunity here—again, on a bipartisan way—to deal with this long overdue maintenance at our national parks. The administration supports it, our Energy and Natural Resources Committee has voted it out of committee with a strong bipartisan vote. The House of Representatives supports it on a bipartisan basis. Let's get it done.

There has also been talk of a major infrastructure compromise. We need

that. Our roads and bridges are crumbling, generally, not just at our parks. We need an infrastructure bill. Maybe the parks bill will be the start of that. We will see if that can be something where we can find compromise.

Of course, we also have to make progress on healthcare. The costs of healthcare are out of control. I know Senator ALEXANDER talked about this earlier on the floor today, but there are so many opportunities for us to improve our healthcare system and the cost and the quality of that system. It is something that has been very difficult and very partisan. It has been difficult for us to make any progress on that, but I think we have to put our partisan blinders away and say: How can we come up with sensible solutions? Some have talked about it today on the floor. Senator COLLINS, who was here earlier today as Presiding Officer, has specific legislation to have these high-risk pools in States—it has worked in her State of Maine, and it can work nationally—to be sure that we are reducing the cost for everybody for their premiums, deductibles, and copays.

I think the American people are looking for wins right now. I think it would help our country to have some of these wins. I think there are some great examples I have presented today of some pretty easy wins, of some low-hanging fruit—whether it is dealing with these issues that we are left with here with the government shutdown, making some small steps forward on immigration reform right away, or whether it is low-hanging fruit like the reform of the Internal Revenue Service, the retirement savings expansion, so people can save more for retirement, and this idea that we can begin to turn the tide on the opioid epidemic, which has gripped our country. It doesn't have to be a year of gridlock. It can be a year of progress.

My hope is that on this opening day, as Members are walking down the aisle and are here with their families and celebrating and the optimism of opening day and thinking that hope springs eternal, this can be a good season. This can be a good year. This can be a year where we focus on what is best for the people we represent and focus on what is best for our country. If we do that, I think we will make a difference, and I think we will look back and realize that it doesn't have to be this way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). The majority whip.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as we begin a new Congress, it is always an exciting time. There are a lot of families and friends here. Our Members and colleagues were sworn in earlier today. It represents a new beginning—obviously, a time when there is hope and optimism that we can come together

and do some good things for the people we represent in our respective States and for our country. That is the way we approach this new session of Congress.

There is a lot I think we can do. We can find some common ground and work together. Obviously, we have to deal with the issues of last year's business before we can start this business of this new year.

Last year's business is incomplete. We are almost 2 weeks into a partial government shutdown because Democrats don't want to fund increased security for the border. Border security is a national security requirement. Every Member of Congress, Democrat or Republican, should take seriously our responsibility to protect our Nation by ensuring that our borders are secure. At one time Democrats understood that.

In 2006, the Democratic leader and the ranking member of the Senate Judiciary Committee voted for legislation to authorize a border fence. They were joined in that vote by then-Senators Biden, Clinton, and Obama. In 2013, every Senate Democrat supported legislation requiring the completion of a 700-mile fence along our southern border. This legislation would have provided \$46 billion for border security and \$8 billion specifically for the wall.

Nearly every Senate Democrat supported \$25 billion in border security funding just last February—just recently, less than 1 year ago. Yet today, Democrats would rather keep part of the government shut down than provide the money needed to secure our borders. The question is, What has changed?

Our national security situation certainly hasn't changed. Our borders are not sufficiently secure, and as we have seen, they are a target for illegal entry. Over the past year, illegal border crossing apprehensions have shot up by more than 30 percent. The holes in our border security leave us susceptible to illegal entry by gang members, human traffickers, drug dealers, terrorists, and weapons traffickers. The Democrats are refusing to budge on sorely needed border security funding. Why? I think that is a fair question.

It is, I think, because Democrats are reluctant to oppose the far-left wing of their party, which increasingly seems to be advancing this preposterous notion that we really don't need to secure our borders at all. Every nation has to secure its borders. A country without borders really isn't a country. Preventing dangerous individuals and goods from entering is an essential part of every country's security, and as my Democratic colleagues have proved in the past, they know this, which is why they voted that way in previous sessions of Congress, as recently as last year.

I hope they will think better of this government shutdown and decide that their national security obligations are more important than catering to the

far-left wing of their party. It is time to fund our border security and to end this shutdown. It simply requires sides to come together to find that common ground and to do what is in our country's best interests and the best interests of the American people; that is, to make sure that our country has a secure border and that we discourage people from coming here illegally and encourage them to come through legal means.

I had the opportunity a couple of weeks ago in my State of South Dakota to welcome into our State and country 99 new citizens from 33 countries around the world. They came here the legal way. They went through the process and followed our rules, followed our laws. That is what we want to encourage more of.

What we don't need more of are people coming into this country illegally and presenting the types of threats I mentioned earlier—anytime we have that many people, in a mass way, migrating across our border. I hope and sincerely believe that as a Congress, as a Senate working with this President—who has made this a big priority for his administration—it is an important priority for our country and a requirement and obligation that I think we all have as U.S. Senators, first and foremost, to protect our country and to protect the American people. If we don't get that right, the rest is really just conversation.

I hope the Democrats will come to the conclusion that their statements in the past and their votes in the past in support of border security are the right way to proceed and will continue in that tradition we have had in the country in the past in which, on these important issues, both sides come together and work to find common ground.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). The majority leader.

TRIBUTE TO MICKEY MILLER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this month my friend Mickey Miller will retire from Nolin Rural Electric Cooperative Corporation, Nolin RECC, after 45 years at the organization, including more than a quarter century as its president and CEO. Mickey has dedicated his career to providing reliable, cost-effective energy services to Kentuckians in nine counties with integrity and innovation. I would like to take a moment to reflect on his remarkable career in our Commonwealth.

From LaRue County, Mickey graduated from the University of Kentucky with a degree in agriculture economics and marketing. During his time at Nolin RECC, Mickey has championed a great deal of growth and advancement. In fact, the cooperative's membership has more than tripled, providing vital services to Kentucky families and employers and fueling development in the region.

Mickey's contributions extend beyond his work with Nolin RECC. As the chairman of the Kentucky Council of Cooperatives and the director of the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives, Mickey has been a strong advocate for affordable and reliable electricity programs throughout the Commonwealth. He also has served on the board of the United Utility Supply Cooperative, providing for the needs of communities across 19 States. Previously, Mickey led energy cooperatives throughout the Nation as the chairman of Touchstone Energy.

In addition to his many business successes, Mickey has also committed himself to the betterment of his community. As an executive board member of the Lincoln Heritage Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Mickey is dedicated to helping prepare the next generation to excel. He also worked to encourage economic growth in his community through his involvement with the Elizabethtown—Hardin County Industrial Foundation.

I would like to particularly recognize one part of Mickey's work for his community: saluting our Nation's veterans. Supporting the Honor Flight Kentucky program, Nolin RECC, under Mickey's leadership, along with other Kentucky cooperatives, enabled 43 World War II, Korea, and Vietnam veterans to travel to Washington, DC, last year to see the memorials built to honor their service. I am grateful for the work of Honor Flight Kentucky, which gives many veterans their only chance to visit our Nation's Capital, and I applaud the efforts of community leaders like Mickey for making these trips a possibility for our heroes.

Given Mickey's dedication to these many causes and his passion for rural communities, it is no wonder that he has been honored with several awards recognizing his service to many of these organizations. From the Touchstone Energy Distinguished Service Award to the Boy Scout Hardin County Distinguished Citizen Award, Mickey is widely praised for his professional accomplishments and his service to his community.

Although I am sure everyone at Nolin RECC is sorry to see him go, I know they will join me in thanking Mickey for his many years of dedicated service to Kentucky's rural communities. I wish him a relaxing retirement with his wife of 46 years, Barbara, his daughters, Jennifer and Carmen, and his grandsons, Craig and Mason. I encourage my Senate colleagues to help me congratulate Mickey Miller on a remarkable career of service to Nolin RECC.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO GAVIN GEE

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Gavin Gee, director of the Idaho Department of Finance,

who announced his retirement after over four decades of distinguished service to the State.

Gavin has led an impressive career in the banking sector, dedicating the majority of his life to promoting access to vigorous, healthy, and comprehensive financial services for Idaho citizens. He began his career at the Idaho Department of Finance in 1977 and has served as the department's director since 1996 after a short stint as its acting director in 1995. Impressively, in a post that requires Gubernatorial appointment, as well as the advice and consent of the State senate, Gavin has served under four different Governors.

Prior to being acting director, he served the department in a number of other roles, including as the department's deputy attorney general, securities bureau chief, and financial institutions bureau chief. He also served as chairman and a member of the State Liaison Committee of the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council between 1994 and 1999 and as chairman and on the boards of directors of both the Conference of State Bank Supervisors and the National Association of State Credit Union Supervisors.

Throughout his career, Gavin has fought to ensure the financial interests of Idaho citizens are effectively served. He has also championed policies and enforced laws to protect Idaho's citizens from fraud, unsafe practices, and unlawful conduct. He is a leading figure in community banking, widely respected by those in the industry and those with whom he works.

In addition to his service at the State level, Gavin has contributed meaningfully to the national dialogue on financial services supervision and regulation. He was instrumental in the development of the Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry, improving supervision of the mortgage industry and enhancing consumer protection. From 2006 to 2012, he served as chairman of the CSBS/American Association of Residential Mortgage Regulators State Regulatory Registry, the board which oversees the development and operation of the System. He has worked closely with Congress on regulatory relief efforts, counseling lawmakers on the Financial Services Regulatory Relief Act of 2006 and then again on the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief and Consumer Protection Act in 2018. On several occasions, Gavin lent his expertise in testimony before the Senate Banking Committee. We have enjoyed a close working relationship, and I am grateful for his willingness to engage and educate lawmakers. Gavin has been a real asset to the State of Idaho and the Nation, and I consider him a good friend. I appreciate his lifetime of service and wish him well in retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to

the Senate by Mr. Pate, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:52 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to H. Res. 1, resolving that Karen L. Haas of the State of Maryland, be, and is hereby, chosen Clerk of the House of Representatives; that Paul D. Irving of the State of Florida be, and is hereby, chosen Sergeant-at-Arms of the House of Representatives; that Philip George Kiko of the State of Ohio be, and is hereby, chosen Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives; and that Father Patrick J. Conroy of the State of Oregon be, and is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

The message further announced that the House has agreed to H. Res. 2, resolving that the Senate be informed that a quorum of the House of Representatives has assembled; that NANCY PELOSI, a Representative from the State of California, has been elected Speaker; and that Karen L. Haas, a citizen of the State of Maryland, has been elected Clerk of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress.

The message also announced that pursuant to House Resolution 3, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to join a committee on the part of the Senate to notify the President of the United States that a quorum of each House has assembled and that Congress is ready to receive any communication that he may be pleased to make: Mr. HOYER of Maryland and Mr. MCCARTHY of California.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

S. 1. A bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

S. 21. A bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations act expires prior to the enactment of a new appropriations act.

S. 24. A bill to provide for compensation of Federal and other government employees affected by lapses in appropriations.

MEASURES HELD OVER/UNDER RULE

The following resolution was read, and held over, under the rule:

S. Res. 9. A resolution fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MCCONNELL, and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 1. A bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 2. A bill to safeguard certain technology and intellectual property in the United States from export to or influence by the People's Republic of China and to protect United States industry from unfair competition by the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 3. A bill to bring stability to the individual insurance market, make insurance coverage more affordable, lower prescription drug prices, and improve Medicaid; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HARRIS:

S. 4. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a refundable tax credit to increase the take-home pay of American workers and enhance their financial stability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 5. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for qualified elementary and secondary education tuition; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 6. A bill to decrease the cost of hiring, and increase the take-home pay of, Puerto Rican workers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. REED, Mr. KING, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 7. A bill to provide family members of an individual who they fear is a danger to himself, herself, or others, or law enforcement, with new tools to prevent gun violence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 8. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that the supported housing program of the Department of Veterans Affairs has not fewer than one program manager for every 35 rental assistance cases under such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. GARDNER, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mrs. ERNST):

S. 9. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify the Food and Drug Administration's jurisdiction over certain tobacco products, and to protect jobs and small businesses involved in the sale, manufacturing and distribution of traditional and premium cigars; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 10. A bill to require the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia to develop a plan for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 11. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to strengthen the National Disaster Medical System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 12. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve access to health care through expanded health savings accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 13. A bill to include the State of Florida in the Gulf of Mexico outer Continental Shelf revenue sharing program, to extend the moratorium on oil and gas leasing in certain areas of the Gulf of Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 14. A bill to authorize additional district court judgeships for the northern, middle, and southern districts of Florida; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 15. A bill to reform the requirements regarding the safety and security of families living in public and federally assisted housing in high-crime areas; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 16. A bill to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide for the treatment of core seasonal industries affected by anti-dumping or countervailing duty investigations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 17. A bill to provide for a comfortable and safe temperature level in dwelling units receiving certain Federal housing assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 18. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish a methodology for determining State allotments for Medicaid disproportionate share hospital payments that is based on State poverty levels, to require States to prioritize disproportionate share hospital payments on the basis of Medicaid inpatient utilization and low-income utilization rates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 19. A bill to exempt health insurance of residents of United States territories from the annual fee on health insurance providers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. COONS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 20. A bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require the disclosure of certain tax returns by Presidents and certain candidates for the office of the President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. JONES, Ms. COLLINS, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 21. A bill making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an ap-

propriations act expires prior to the enactment of a new appropriations act; read the first time.

By Mr. CARDIN:

S. 22. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of dental services under the Medicare program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 23. A bill to establish a national commission on the Federal response to the 2017 natural disasters in Puerto Rico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. REED, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. JONES, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. COONS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. CARPER, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 24. A bill to provide for compensation of Federal and other government employees affected by lapses in appropriations; read the first time.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 25. A bill to reserve any amounts forfeited to the United States Government as a result of the criminal prosecution of Joaquin Archivaldo Guzman Loera (commonly known as "El Chapo"), or of other felony convictions involving the transportation of controlled substances into the United States, for security measures along the Southern border, including the completion of a border wall; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. CARPER):

S. 26. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to allow all eligible voters to vote by mail in Federal elections, to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to provide for automatic voter registration; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. MANCHIN (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. JONES, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 27. A bill to amend the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 to transfer certain funds to the 1974 United Mine Workers of America Pension Plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. LEE):

S.J. Res. 1. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relative to limiting the number of terms that a Member of Congress may serve; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 1. A resolution informing the President of the United States that a quorum of each House is assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 2. A resolution informing the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 3. A resolution to elect Chuck Grassley, a Senator from the State of Iowa, to be President pro tempore of the Senate of the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 4. A resolution notifying the President of the United States of the election of a President pro tempore; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 5. A resolution notifying the House of Representatives of the election of a President pro tempore; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 6. A resolution fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 7. A resolution to make effective appointment of Senate Legal Counsel; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. Res. 8. A resolution to make effective appointment of Deputy Senate Legal Counsel; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MCCONNELL:

S. Res. 9. A resolution fixing the hour of daily meeting of the Senate; submitted and read.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 1—INFORMING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES THAT A QUORUM OF EACH HOUSE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 1

Resolved, That a committee consisting of two Senators be appointed to join such committee as may be appointed by the House of Representatives to wait upon the President of the United States and inform him that a quorum of each House is assembled and that the Congress is ready to receive any communication he may be pleased to make.

SENATE RESOLUTION 2—INFORMING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT A QUORUM OF THE SENATE IS ASSEMBLED

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 2

Resolved, That the Secretary inform the House of Representatives that a quorum of the Senate is assembled and that the Senate is ready to proceed to business.

SENATE RESOLUTION 3—TO ELECT CHUCK GRASSLEY, A SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF IOWA, TO BE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 3

Resolved, That Chuck Grassley, a Senator from the State of Iowa, be, and he is hereby, elected President of the Senate pro tempore.

SENATE RESOLUTION 4—NOTIFYING THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF THE ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 4

Resolved, That the President of the United States be notified of the election of the Honorable Chuck Grassley as President of the Senate pro tempore.

SENATE RESOLUTION 5—NOTIFYING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ELECTION OF A PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 5

Resolved, That the House of Representatives be notified of the election of the Honorable Chuck Grassley as President of the Senate pro tempore.

SENATE RESOLUTION 6—FIXING THE HOUR OF DAILY MEETING OF THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 6

Resolved, That the daily meeting of the Senate be 12 o'clock meridian unless otherwise ordered.

SENATE RESOLUTION 7—TO MAKE EFFECTIVE APPOINTMENT OF SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 7

Resolved, That the appointment of Patricia Mack Bryan of Virginia to be Senate Legal Counsel, made by the President pro tempore this day, is effective as of January 3, 2019, and the term of service of the appointee shall expire at the end of the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress.

SENATE RESOLUTION 8—TO MAKE EFFECTIVE APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY SENATE LEGAL COUNSEL

Mr. MCCONNELL (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 8

Resolved, That the appointment of Morgan J. Frankel of the District of Columbia to be Deputy Senate Legal Council, made by the President pro tempore this day, is effective

as of January 3, 2019, and the term of service of the appointee shall expire at the end of the One Hundred Seventeenth Congress.

SENATE RESOLUTION 9—FIXING THE HOUR OF DAILY MEETING OF THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL submitted the following resolution; which was submitted and read:

S. RES. 9

Resolved, That the daily meeting of the Senate be 12:01 p.m. unless otherwise ordered.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1, S. 21, AND S. 24

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there are three bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1) to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 21) making continuing appropriations for Coast Guard pay in the event an appropriations act expires prior to the enactment of a new appropriations act.

A bill (S. 24) to provide for the compensation of Federal and other government employees affected by lapses in appropriations.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 4, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Friday, January 4; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 5:05 p.m., adjourned until Friday, January 4, 2019, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

MARK ANTHONY CALABRIA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE MELVIN L. WATT, TERM EXPIRING.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NICOLE R. NASON, OF NEW YORK, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION, VICE GREGORY GUY NADÉAU.

UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

CHARLES L. GLAZER, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES ADVISORY COMMISSION ON PUBLIC DIPLOMACY FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 1, 2020, VICE LYNDON L. OLSON, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD K. BELL, OF PENNSYLVANIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF COTE D'IVOIRE.

INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

ELIOT PEDROSA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTER-AMERICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS, VICE MARK E. LOPES, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ROBERT WILLIAMS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOUTH ASIAN AFFAIRS, VICE NISHA DESAI BISWAL.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

RUSSELL A. BERMAN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020, VICE MARVIN KRISLOV, TERM EXPIRED.

WILLIAM ENGLISH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2024, VICE PATRICIA NELSON LIMERICK, TERM EXPIRED.

JOHN FONTE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020, VICE JAMSHEED K. CHOKSY, TERM EXPIRED.

MARJORIE FISHER FURMAN, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022, VICE CHRISTOPHER MERRILL, TERM EXPIRED.

CLAIRE GRIFFIN, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022, VICE ALBERT J. BEVERIDGE III, TERM EXPIRED.

JOYCE MALCOLM, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020, VICE DAVID HERTZ, TERM EXPIRED.

ADAIR MARGO, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022, VICE CATHY M. DAVIDSON, TERM EXPIRED.

MATTHEW ROSE, OF IOWA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2024, VICE GERALD LYN EARLY, TERM EXPIRED.

WILLIAM SCHNEIDER, JR., OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020, VICE ROLENA KLAHN ADORNO, TERM EXPIRED.

NOEL VALIS, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020, VICE CAROL M. SWAIN, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WILLIAM PELHAM BARR, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE JEFF SESSIONS, RESIGNED.

NOMINATIONS RETURNED TO THE PRESIDENT

THURSDAY, JANUARY 3, 2019

The following nominations transmitted by the President of the United States to the Senate during the second session of the 115th Congress, and upon which no action was had at the time of the sine die adjournment of the Senate, failed of confirmation under the provisions of rule XXXI, paragraph 6, of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

AIMEE KATHRYN JORJANI, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2021.

AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LEON A. WESTMORELAND, OF GEORGIA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

JOSEPH RYAN GRUTERS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

RICK A. DEARBORN, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE A DIRECTOR OF THE AMTRAK BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS

MICHAEL PACK, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF THE BROADCASTING BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR THE TERM OF THREE YEARS.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

ANN MARIE BUERKLE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SEVEN YEARS FROM OCTOBER 27, 2018.

ANN MARIE BUERKLE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

VICTORIA ANN HUGHES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 6, 2021.

HEATHER REYNOLDS, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 14, 2021.

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

JANICE MIRIAM HELLREICH, OF HAWAII, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2024.

BRUCE M. RAMER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2024.

ROBERT A. MANDELL, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2022.

DON MUNCE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2024.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

JOSEPH BRUCE HAMILTON, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2022.

JESSIE HILL ROBERSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2023.

LISA VICKERS, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 18, 2021.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NAOMI C. EARP, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE.

MINDY BRASHEARS, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR FOOD SAFETY.

SCOTT HUTCHINS, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

BARRY LEE MYERS, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR OCEANS AND ATMOSPHERE.

JEFFREY NADANER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE.

JOHN FLEMING, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

CHARLES DOUGLAS STIMSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

VERONICA DAIGLE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

THOMAS MCCAFFERY, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE.

LISA M. SCHENCK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF MILITARY COMMISSION REVIEW.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

MARK SCHULTZ, OF NEBRASKA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF THE REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

ROBERT L. KING, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

CHRISTOPHER FALL, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF SCIENCE, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

LANE GENATOWSKI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY-ENERGY, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

WILLIAM COOPER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.

WILLIAM BOOKLESS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE PRINCIPAL DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR, NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION.

RITA BARANWAL, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF ENERGY (NUCLEAR ENERGY).

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

STEPHEN PARENTE, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

ELIZABETH DARLING, OF TEXAS, TO BE COMMISSIONER ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

WILLIAM BRYAN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

RONALD D. VITIELLO, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

JOSEPH V. CUFFARI, OF ARIZONA, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

ROBERT HUNTER KURTZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

SETH DANIEL APPLETON, OF MISSOURI, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT.

MICHAEL R. BRIGHT, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE PRESIDENT, GOVERNMENT NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

BARRETT W. RICH, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

MICHAEL D. BAUGHMAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

SHANNON LEE GOESSLING, OF FLORIDA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OFFICE, DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.

WILLIAM TRAVIS BROWN, JR., OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

NICK EDWARD PROFFITT, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

WING CHAU, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

RAMONA L. DOHMAN, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

ERIC S. GARTNER, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DREW H. WRIGLEY, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF NORTH DAKOTA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DONALD W. WASHINGTON, OF TEXAS, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES MARSHALS SERVICE.

GARY B. BURMAN, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF KENTUCKY FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WILLIAM BEACH, OF KANSAS, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF LABOR STATISTICS, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

SCOTT A. MUGNO, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR.

CHERYL MARIE STANTON, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

JOHN P. PALLASCH, OF KENTUCKY, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR.

JOHN LOWRY III, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.

BRYAN JARRETT, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LEANDRO RIZZUTO, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO BARBADOS, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERATION OF SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS, SAINT LUCIA, ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA, THE COMMONWEALTH OF DOMINICA, GRENADA, AND SAINT VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES.

DOUG MANCHESTER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS.

JOSEPH CELLA, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI, THE REPUBLIC OF NAURU, THE KINGDOM OF TONGA, AND TUVALU.

STEPHEN KARD, OF INDIANA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

KENNETH S. GEORGE, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORIENTAL REPUBLIC OF URUGUAY.

DAVID SCHENKER, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (NEAR EASTERN AFFAIRS).

JOHN RAKOLTA, JR., OF MICHIGAN, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES.

DONALD R. TAPIA, OF ARIZONA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO JAMAICA.

RONALD MORTENSEN, OF UTAH, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POPULATION, REFUGEES, AND MIGRATION).

CHRISTINE J. TORETTI, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MALTA.

BRIAN J. BULATAO, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (MANAGEMENT).

LYNDA BLANCHARD, OF ALABAMA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA.

ROBERT A. DESTRO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEMOCRACY, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND LABOR.

R. CLARKE COOPER, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (POLITICAL-MILITARY AFFAIRS).

KATHLEEN ANN KAVALEC, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA.

FRANCISCO LUIS PALMIERI, OF CONNECTICUT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF HONDURAS.

DANIEL N. ROSENBLUM, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN.

KIP TOM, OF INDIANA, FOR THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS AGENCIES FOR FOOD AND AGRICULTURE.

ADRIAN ZUCKERMAN, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO ROMANIA.

W. PATRICK MURPHY, OF VERMONT, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA.

ROBERT K. SCOTT, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MALAWI.

MICHAEL J. FITZPATRICK, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ECUADOR.

JEFFREY ROSS GUNTER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ICELAND.

MARSHALL BILLINGSLEA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (CIVILIAN SECURITY, DEMOCRACY, AND HUMAN RIGHTS).

AUSTIN M. SMITH, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

AUSTIN M. SMITH, OF SOUTH CAROLINA, TO BE AN ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS DURING HIS TENURE OF SERVICE AS ALTERNATE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR SPECIAL POLITICAL AFFAIRS IN THE UNITED NATIONS.

PAMELA BATES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

JEFFREY L. EBERHARDT, OF WISCONSIN, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE, TO BE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRESIDENT FOR NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

RONALD DOUGLAS JOHNSON, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR.

EDWARD F. CRAWFORD, OF OHIO, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO IRELAND.

KENNETH A. HOWERY, OF TEXAS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SWEDEN.

MARY CATHERINE PHEE, OF ILLINOIS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF QATAR.

DAVID STILWELL, OF HAWAII, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS).

JOHN P. ABIZAID, OF NEVADA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA.

KATE MARIE BYRNES, OF FLORIDA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA.

JAMES S. GILMORE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

BRETT P. GIROIR, OF TEXAS, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION.

LANA J. MARKS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA.

MATTHEW H. TUELLER, OF UTAH, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF IRAQ.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SUSAN COMBS, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

RAYMOND DAVID VELA, OF TEXAS, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

AURELIA SKIPWITH, OF INDIANA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

MICHAEL J. DESMOND, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE CHIEF COUNSEL FOR THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AND AN ASSISTANT GENERAL COUNSEL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

MICHAEL PAULKENDER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DINO PALASCHETTI, OF MONTANA, TO BE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF FINANCIAL RESEARCH, DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS.

BIMAL PATEL, OF GEORGIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DIANA FURCHTGOTT-ROTH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION.

THELMA DRAKE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE FEDERAL TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATOR.

HEIDI R. KING, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAFFIC SAFETY ADMINISTRATION.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

PETER C. WRIGHT, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF SOLID WASTE, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

SHARON FAST GUSTAFSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

KIMBERLY A. REED, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2021.

FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

JAMES E. TRAINOR III, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING APRIL 30, 2023.

FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND

JAMES B. LOCKHART III, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL HOSPITAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION SERVICES

MICHAEL STOKER, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE FEDERAL MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION DIRECTOR.

FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION

MARCO M. RAJKOVICH, JR., OF KENTUCKY, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2022.

WILLIAM I. ALTHEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2024.

ARTHUR R. TRAYNOR III, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 30, 2024.

FEDERAL OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE TRUST FUND

JAMES B. LOCKHART III, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL OLD-AGE AND SURVIVORS INSURANCE TRUST FUND AND THE FEDERAL DISABILITY INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

MARVIN GOODFRIEND, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR A TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2016.

JEAN NELLIE LIANG, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF FOURTEEN YEARS FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2010.

FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND

JAMES B. LOCKHART III, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FEDERAL SUPPLEMENTARY MEDICAL INSURANCE TRUST FUND FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

ROBERT C. TAPELLA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE.

INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION

KIMBERLY BREIER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 20, 2020.

INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND CANADA

JANE L. CORWIN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE COMMISSIONER ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

ROBERT C. SISSON, OF MICHIGAN, TO BE COMMISSIONER ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

LANCE V. YOHE, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE COMMISSIONER ON THE PART OF THE UNITED STATES ON THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION, UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

MARK ROSEN, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE UNITED STATES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION

ROBERT J. GREY, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2020.

ABIGAIL L. KUZMA, OF INDIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2019.

ABIGAIL L. KUZMA, OF INDIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2022.

JOHN G. LEVI, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2020.

JOHN G. MALCOLM, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2020.

FRANK X. NEUNER, JR., OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2019.

FRANK X. NEUNER, JR., OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2022.

GLORIA VALENCIA-WEBER, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JULY 13, 2020.

MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD

DENNIS DEAN KIRK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2023.

DENNIS DEAN KIRK, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE CHAIRMAN OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD.

ANDREW F. MAUNZ, OF OHIO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2025.

JULIA AKINS CLARK, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE MERIT SYSTEMS PROTECTION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF SEVEN YEARS EXPIRING MARCH 1, 2021.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

ALAN E. COBB, OF KANSAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 22, 2023.

WILLIAM SHAW MCDERMOTT, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIRPORTS AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 30, 2024.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

SEAN CAIRNCROSS, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION.

ALEXANDER CRENSHAW, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS.

SUSAN M. MCCUE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF TWO YEARS.

GEORGE M. MARCUS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS.

NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

RODNEY HOOD, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING AUGUST 2, 2023.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

CHARLES WICKSER BANTA, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022.

MICHELLE ITCZAK, OF INDIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2020.

BARBARA COLEEN LONG, OF MISSOURI, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022.

CARLETON VARNEY, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE ARTS FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 3, 2022.

KATHE HICKS ALBRECHT, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2024.

KEEGAN F. CALLANAN, OF VERMONT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2024.

DAVID ARMAND DEKEYSER, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020.

KIM R. HOLMES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

PHYLLIS KAMINSKY, OF ARIZONA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2020.

JEAN M. YARBROUGH, OF MAINE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2022.

MARY ANNE CARTER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE CHAIRPERSON OF THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS FOR A TERM OF FOUR YEARS.

NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

MARK GASTON PEARCE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING AUGUST 27, 2023.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE

WILLIAM R. EVANINA, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL COUNTERINTELLIGENCE AND SECURITY CENTER.

OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION

LOUIS DEJOY, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 17, 2020.

FREDERICK PERPALL, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 17, 2020.

IRVING BAILEY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 17, 2018.

IRVING BAILEY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 17, 2021.

CHRISTOPHER P. VINCEZ, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 17, 2019.

PEACE CORPS

ALAN R. SWENDIMAN, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE PEACE CORPS.

PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

GORDON HARTOGENSIS, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD

ADITYA RAMZAI, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 29, 2020.

TRAVIS LEBLANC, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 29, 2022.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

DAVID FABIAN BLACK, OF NORTH DAKOTA, TO BE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2019.

ANDREW M. SAUL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2019.

ANDREW M. SAUL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY FOR THE TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 19, 2025.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD

MICHAEL J. ASTRUE, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2022.

JASON J. FICHTNER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

MICHELLE A. SCHULTZ, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

MARTIN J. OBERMAN, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2018.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

JOHN L. RYDER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2021.

THE JUDICIARY

DANIEL DESMOND DOMENICO, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO.

THOMAS ALVIN FARR, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA.

MATTHEW J. KACSMARYK, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

J. CAMPBELL BARKER, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

MICHAEL J. TRUNCALC, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

WENDY VITTER, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA.

MAUREEN K. OHLHAUSEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

SHANA FROST MATINI, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

WENDY WILLIAMS BERGER, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

HOLLY A. BRADY, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA.

ANDREW LYNN BRASHER, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF ALABAMA.

JOHN M. O'CONNOR, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN, EASTERN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS OF OKLAHOMA.

ALLEN COTHREL WINSOR, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

PATRICK R. WYRICK, OF OKLAHOMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA.

RAUL M. ARIAS-MARXUACH, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO.

PAAMELA A. BARKER, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO. KENNETH D. BELL, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NORTH CAROLINA.

STEPHEN R. CLARK, SR., OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI.

JONATHAN W. KATCHEN, OF ALASKA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA.

PAUL B. MATEY, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT.

MARY S. MCELROY, OF RHODE ISLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF RHODE ISLAND.

DAVID STEVEN MORALES, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

SARAH DAGGETT MORRISON, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO.

ROY KALMAN ALTMAN, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

THOMAS P. BARBER, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

RICHARD A. HERTLING, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF FEDERAL CLAIMS FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

RODOLFO ARMANDO RUIZ II, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

RODNEY SMITH, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

T. KENT WETHERELL II, OF FLORIDA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA.

GARY RICHARD BROWN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

DIANE GUJARATI, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

ERIC ROSS KOMITEE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

RACHEL P. KOVNER, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

LEWIS J. LIMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

CORIEY LANDON MAZE, OF ALABAMA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA.

JOHN L. SINATRA, JR., OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

MARY KAY VYSKOCIL, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

JOSHUA WOLSON, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

STEPHANIE A. GALLAGHER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND.

KARIN J. IMMERGUT, OF OREGON, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF OREGON. MARTHA MARIA PACOLD, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

ROSSIE DAVID ALSTON, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA.

M. MILLER BAKER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

ERIC E. MURPHY, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT.

CARL J. NICHOLS, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

CHAD A. READLER, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT.

TIMOTHY M. REIF, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

MARY M. ROWLAND, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

STEVEN C. SEEGER, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS.

DAMON RAY LEICHTY, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA.

JOHN MILTON YOUNGE, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

ERIC D. MILLER, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.

J. NICHOLAS RANJAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

BRIDGET S. BADE, OF ARIZONA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.

ALLISON JONES RUSHING, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FOURTH CIRCUIT.

JEAN-PAUL BOULEE, OF GEORGIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA.

JAMES DAVID CAIN, JR., OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA.

JOSEPH F. BIANCO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT.

STANLEY BLUMENFELD, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

BRIAN C. BUESCHER, OF NEBRASKA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA.

PATRICK J. BUMATAY, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.

DANIEL P. COLLINS, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.

CLIFTON L. CORKER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE.

PHILIP M. HALPERN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

KENNETH KIYUL LEE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT.

THOMAS MARCELLE, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK.

MATTHEW WALDEN MCFARLAND, OF OHIO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO.

MICHAEL H. PARK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT.

JEREMY B. ROSEN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

MARK C. SCARSI, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

NEOMI J. RAO, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT.

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

DARRELL E. ISSA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.

UNITED NATIONS

MARGARITA PALAU-HERNANDEZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

ELIZABETH ERIN WALSH, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SEVENTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

ANDREW P. BREMBERG, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA, WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RICHARD C. PARKER, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

MINA CHANG, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

JOHN BARSA, OF FLORIDA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

AMY KARPEL, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 16, 2020.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

VIRGIL MADDEN, OF INDIANA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS.

MONICA DAVID MORRIS, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

RON A. BLOOM, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2020.

ROMAN MARTINEZ IV, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2024.

UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION

HENRY E. HUDSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2021.

WILLIAM GRAHAM OTIS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2021.

WILLIAM H. PRYOR, JR., OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2023.

WILLIAM H. PRYOR, JR., OF ALABAMA, TO BE CHAIR OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION.

LUIS FELIPE RESTREPO, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES SENTENCING COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 31, 2019.

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

COURTNEY DUNBAR JONES, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

EMIN TORO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

MARK VAN DYKE HOLMES, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

TRAVIS GREAVES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF COL. KATHLEEN M. FLARITY, TO BE BRIGADIER GENERAL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF COL. DAVID A. HARRIS, JR., TO BE BRIGADIER GENERAL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF LT. GEN. ARNOLD W. BUNCH, JR., TO BE GENERAL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRIG. GEN. MICHEL M. RUSSELL, SR., TO BE MAJOR GENERAL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF COL. MARIO A. R. DIAZ, TO BE BRIGADIER GENERAL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF BRIG. GEN. MICHAEL R. BERRY, TO BE MAJOR GENERAL.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF BRIG. GEN. NORMAN L. COOLING, TO BE MAJOR GENERAL.

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF MAJ. GEN. FREDERICK M. PADILLA, TO BE LIEUTENANT GENERAL.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATION OF REAR ADM. (LH) RONNY L. JACKSON, TO BE REAR ADMIRAL.

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF COL. SCOTT E. HARDING, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF NICHOLAS C. MUMM, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES E. MATISKO, TO BE COLONEL.

FOREIGN SERVICE

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KEISHA L. EFFIOM AND ENDING WITH ROBIN SHARMA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 12, 2018.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF DAO LE.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JEFFRIES BLUNT DE GRAFFENRIED, JR. AND ENDING WITH OMAR ROBLES, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JUNE 11, 2018.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF JAY P. WILLIAMS.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES J. HIGGISTON AND ENDING WITH BOBBY G. RICHEY, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 26, 2018.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATION OF CYNTHIA K. DUERR.